United Nations

ICCD/COP(13)/21/Add.1

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General
23 October 2017

Original: English

Conference of the Parties

Report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017

Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session

Addendum

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Decision 1/COP.13

Multi-year workplans of the Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 3/COP.8 and 7/COP.13,

Having reviewed documents ICCD/COP(13)/8-ICCD/CRIC(16)/2 and ICCD/CRIC(16)/3,

Underlining the importance of the efficient and coordinated functioning of the Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies in supporting Parties in their implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

1. *Approves* the strategic orientation of the secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, as contained in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) results framework for 2018–2021 in the annex to this decision;

2. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to utilize the UNCCD results framework for 2018–2021 in the annex to this decision, organizing their work in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Convention and decisions taken at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, and in line with the guidance outlined in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to prepare a multi-year workplan for the Convention (2020–2023), utilizing the results-based management approach, to be considered at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Annex

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification results framework for 2018–2021

UNCCD strategic objectives	*2018–2021 main outcomes*	*Outcome indicators*	*2018–2019 main outputs*
1. To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management (SLM) and contribute to land degradation neutrality (LDN)	1.1 Reduction of the area affected by desertification/land degradation 1.2 Up-to-date information of the status of desertification/land degradation 1.3 Affected country Parties use science-based policy-relevant information deriving from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in addressing desertification/land degradation, promoting SLM and contributing to LDN	1.1 Affected country Parties implement activities towards achieving the targets they have set for addressing land degradation and rehabilitation 1.2 Affected country Parties report on the status of land degradation and related activities 1.3 Scientific cooperation involving the UNCCD delivers policy-relevant science-based information for addressing desertification/land degradation, promoting SLM and contributing to LDN	- Technical advice, partnerships and access to capacity-building to support countries in implementing activities towards their voluntary LDN targets and combating desertification/land degradation - A functional reporting system for the progress indicators and for other reporting requirements that may derive from the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework - Support to the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) in refining its guidance on LDN implementation
2. To improve the living conditions of affected populations	2.1 Affected country Parties use land-based activities for improving stability and security 2.2 Gender issues are increasingly taken into account in plans to address desertification/land degradation and drought	2.1 The potential of land-based activities in improving security and stability is recognized 2.2 Affected country Parties use the UNCCD guidance and technical advice on integrating gender issues into UNCCD implementation and design of transformative LDN projects	- Support to the 3S initiative on sustainability, stability and security in Africa - Partnerships and policy guidance on using sustainable land management for increasing economic opportunities and generating stability - Technical advice, policy guidance and partnerships on integrating gender issues and promoting gender equality in UNCCD implementation and design of transformative LDN projects

UNCCD strategic objectives	*2018–2021 main outcomes*	*Outcome indicators*	*2018–2019 main outputs*
3. To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems	3.1 The effects of drought are better mitigated and managed, building on the support and information deriving from the UNCCD 3.2 Early warning concerning drought and/or sand and dust storms is increasingly applied, building on the support and information deriving from the UNCCD	3.1 Affected country Parties use the UNCCD guidance and technical advice concerning drought and sand and dust storms 3.2 Partnerships and collaboration are established on early warning concerning drought and/or sand and dust storms	- Support to the SPI in preparing its guidance on land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation - Technical advice, policy guidance and partnerships on: • Early warning systems for drought and sand and dust storms • Drought risk reduction • Sand and dust storm source mitigation
4. To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD	4.1 The UNCCD process contributes to, and benefits from, synergies with the other Rio conventions and related cooperation processes on climate change and biodiversity	4.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services take into account the inputs from the UNCCD 4.2 Development of joint indicators with the other Rio conventions advances	- Support to the SPI in delivering UNCCD priorities and concerns to scientific processes under other conventions - Cooperation on the joint indicators and selected thematic topics with the other Rio conventions - Technical advice and partnerships on integrating land-based activities, particularly those on voluntary LDN targets, into national plans concerning climate change and biodiversity - United Nations system-wide communication strategy for the celebrations to mark the end of the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification in 2020
5. To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level	5.1 Improved access to resources for implementation	5.1 Scope of funding sources to address land degradation 5.2 Affected country Parties have improved capacity to translate their project ideas for UNCCD implementation into high-quality projects	- Strategic partnerships and collaboration with international financial institutions - Support for the preparation of projects on combating desertification/land degradation and drought and for achieving voluntary LDN targets

Decision 2/COP.13

Development and implementation of strategies through national action programmes to achieve the objectives of the Convention in light of target 15.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 3/COP.12 inviting countries to set national voluntary land degradation neutrality targets,

Also recalling decisions 7/COP.12 and 7/COP.13 on striving to achieve a land degradation neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the scope of the Convention,

Recognizing the role of land degradation neutrality as a Sustainable Development Goal accelerator contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development beyond target 15.3,

Acknowledging countries' commitment to and lessons learned from the voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting processes,

Considering that national action programmes are flexible and dynamic tools that respond to evolving national policies and priorities and international development agendas and corresponding opportunities,

Recalling the recommendations from the 'Evaluation of the effectiveness of national action programmes to implement the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification' conducted in 2015,

1. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Formulate data-based, quantifiable and time-bound voluntary targets to achieve land degradation neutrality in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities;

(b) Endorse these voluntary land degradation neutrality targets at the highest appropriate level;

(c) Use the concept of land degradation neutrality as one of the means to foster coherence among national policies, actions and commitments, including, inter alia, as appropriate, nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and restoration commitments;

(d) Identify the most effective mechanisms and best practices to achieve land degradation neutrality, taking into consideration the respective United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) national action programmes;

2. *Further invites* Parties to enhance the implementation of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goals by:

(a) Fostering national-level synergies among the three Rio conventions;

(b) Strengthening national-level coordination and cooperation among those responsible for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, socioeconomic development, finance, food and water security, agriculture, environment, etc., as appropriate;

(c) Seeking to integrate their national action programmes and leverage the cross-cutting benefits of sustainable land management in national-level policies and programmes relating to poverty reduction, food and water security, agriculture, environment, finance, etc., as appropriate;

(d) Engaging all relevant stakeholders;

3. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate UNCCD bodies to:

(a) Continue to support Parties in their efforts to achieve land degradation neutrality, including the formulation and implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and the alignment of national action programmes with the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

(b) Continue to strengthen international cooperation for the achievement of land degradation neutrality, including inter alia, by fostering synergies and increasing coherence among the three Rio conventions and other related initiatives contributing to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;

4. *Invites* multilateral and bilateral partners to support the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and Parties in implementing the activities mentioned in paragraph 3 above.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 3/COP.13

Integration of Sustainable Development Goal 15 and related target 15.3 which states: "to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world", into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 3/COP.12,

Also recalling the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the outcome document "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which includes Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss", and target 15.3: "By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world",

Noting that paragraph 55 of that outcome document reads: "The Sustainable Development Goals and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each Government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated into national planning processes, policies and strategies. It is important to recognize the link between sustainable development and other relevant ongoing processes in the economic, social and environmental fields",

Recalling that, in striving to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3, it is also important to address wider elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including, inter alia, ending poverty and hunger, tackling inequality, promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls, and stimulating economic growth,

Also recalling the usefulness of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on the follow-up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)[1] and subsequent decision 3/COP.12, which endorses the IWG science-based definition of land degradation neutrality as follows: "Land degradation neutrality is a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems",

Recognizing that for the purpose of the scope of the Convention, this definition is intended to apply to affected areas as defined in the text of the Convention,

[1] Document ICCD/COP(12)/4

Recalling that decision 3/COP.12 states that striving to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 is a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), within the scope of the Convention,

Acknowledging that land degradation neutrality contributes to the implementation of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by improving the living conditions and resilience of affected populations and ecosystems services while providing local, national, regional and global benefits,

Also acknowledging that action to achieve land degradation neutrality as set out in Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 can deliver multiple benefits and that land degradation neutrality has the potential to act as an accelerator for achieving a number of Sustainable Development Goals and as a catalyst for attracting sustainable development financing and climate finance to implement the Convention,

Recognizing that, while the Convention is making a significant contribution to combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality, the full implementation of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 will require contributions from other bodies and agencies,

Also recognizing that the UNCCD secretariat, as the lead organization addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, has successfully taken the initiative and invited other relevant agencies and stakeholders, such as United Nations agencies, international organizations, financial institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, to collaborate to achieve Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3,

Recalling decision 3/COP.12, which invites Parties to formulate voluntary targets to achieve land degradation neutrality in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities, taking into account the list of options for operationalizing land degradation neutrality at the national level as outlined by the Intergovernmental Working Group,

1. *Invites* Parties that formulate voluntary targets to achieve land degradation neutrality to:

(a) Ensure that their land degradation neutrality targets and the activities to achieve these targets are directly linked to their national Sustainable Development Goal agendas and create leverage and synergies with their countries' climate and biodiversity agendas, ideally through joint programming of the three Rio conventions, at the national level and with the full engagement of relevant stakeholders;

(b) Use the monitoring and evaluation approach adopted in decision 7/COP.13, including the progress indicators therein, where reliable data is available and taking into consideration national circumstances and, as needed, add additional indicators to monitor, evaluate and communicate progress towards achieving the land degradation neutrality target;

2. *Also invites* all Parties and multilateral and bilateral partners to scale up and facilitate effective financing for combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality, and advancing the implementation of the Convention in reference to decision 14/COP.13;

3. *Further invites* all Parties to enhance the implementation of the Convention and Sustainable Development Goals by:

(a) Fostering national-level synergies among the three Rio conventions;

(b) Strengthening national-level coordination and cooperation among those responsible for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, socioeconomic development, finance, food and water security, agriculture, environment, etc., as appropriate;

(c) Seeking to leverage the cross-cutting benefits of sustainable land management in national-level policies and programmes relating to poverty reduction, food and water security, agriculture, environment, finance, etc., as appropriate;

(d) Engaging all relevant stakeholders.

4. *Requests* the secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate UNCCD bodies, including the Science-Policy Interface, within their respective mandates, to:

(a) Continue to develop partnerships to support the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, taking note of, as appropriate, the Changwon Initiative, the Ankara Initiative and other complementary initiatives, to provide scientific and technical support to the Parties by, inter alia, developing guidance for leveraging the implementation of the Convention and land degradation neutrality, identifying project opportunities and connecting respective partners for the further development of implementation initiatives, including transformative land degradation neutrality projects and programmes, promoting gender responsive approaches in line with the Gender Action Plan [2] found in decision 30/COP.13, and providing advisory support for nationally accredited institutions to the climate finance and other sustainable development finance institutions;

(b) Contribute to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will address Sustainable Development Goal 15, among others, by engaging with and, as appropriate, facilitating participation in regional meetings and other activities leading up to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and providing inputs, including a potential submission in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, with the aim of highlighting countries' progress towards the implementation of the Convention and, as appropriate, the achievement of their voluntary land degradation neutrality targets;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on the implementation of this decision.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

[2] Contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/19.

Decision 4/COP.13

Review of progress in the implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020)

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 4/COP.12,

Also recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolutions 62/195 and 64/201,

Welcoming the progress made in implementing the comprehensive communication strategy and the General Assembly resolution on the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020) (UNDDD), as reported in document ICCD/COP(13)/4,

Appreciating the continued support of the UNDDD Inter-Agency Task Force in advocacy, communication and outreach,

Noting the need to increase engagement with the public and all relevant stakeholders at the local, national, subregional and regional levels for further implementation of the Convention,

1. *Promotes* the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and land degradation neutrality as tools for enhancing the effective implementation of the Convention;

2. *Invites* Parties, civil society organizations, the media, the private sector and all other relevant stakeholders to engage in various awareness-raising events and activities, including the World Day to Combat Desertification, UNDDD and the Land for Life programme, to promote the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

3. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Develop a short communication plan with objectives, key messages and channels to consistently advance the Convention's positions and identity, based on the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

(b) Translate agreed United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification advocacy policy frameworks into appropriate communication tools and platforms, taking into account particular national and regional circumstances, to support Parties' efforts in communicating desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues at national level;

(c) Increase awareness of sustainable land management among the general public by making information available through various communication tools and platforms;

(d) Strengthen the Convention's branding with the production of branded material and ensure the Convention's website, social media channels, newsletter and library information services contain dynamic and interactive content;

(e) Enhance the effectiveness of media outreach through partnerships, databases, media training, increased publication of people-focused stories, improved delivery and dissemination of products;

4. *Invites* Parties and the international community to support the secretariat to better promote awareness of best practices related to desertification/land degradation and drought;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the progress made in implementing this decision at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 5/COP.13

Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 3, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 5/COP.9, 5/COP.10, 5/COP.11 and 5/COP.12,

Stressing the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, as well as their contribution to the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Welcoming the work[3] of the Civil Society Organization Panel and the importance of its continuation,

Also welcoming the outcomes and recommendations of the independent evaluation[4] of the effectiveness of Convention support for civil society organization participation,

1. *Encourages* those Parties with no or few civil society organizations accredited to the Conference of the Parties to promote the involvement of their organizations in the Convention process at the national level for the implementation of the Convention, and at the international level to ensure more balanced participation of civil society organizations in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

2. *Invites* Parties to consider the recommendations made by the Civil Society Organization Panel,[3] regarding land rights;

3. *Encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so, and *invites* international and financial organizations, civil society organizations and private sector institutions to consider contributing to the Supplementary Fund and Special Fund of the Convention with the aim of ensuring wider participation of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the Convention, as well as the work undertaken by the Civil Society Organization Panel;

4. *Also encourages* the Civil Society Organization Panel to consider the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and topics under the Conferences of the Parties when designing its programme of work for 2018–2019;

5. *Further encourages* the Civil Society Organization Panel to review its working modalities with a view to enhancing its effectiveness in the Convention processes;

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[3] Document ICCD/COP(13)/15.

[4] <www2.unccd.int/about-us/evaluation-office>.

[3] Civil Society Organizations Panel. Land Rights for Sustainable Life on Land <www2.unccd.int/publications/civil-society-organizations-cso-panel-land-rights-sustainable-life-land>.

6. *Requests* the Civil Society Organization Panel, through the secretariat, to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on its activities during the forthcoming biennium;

7. *Also requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Civil Society Organization Panel, and subject to the availability of resources, to take the necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the independent evaluation;

8. *Further requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate the renewal of the membership of the Civil Society Organization Panel for two years in January 2018;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on the implementation of the present decision.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 6/COP.13

Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the business engagement strategy

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 17 and 20 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 5/COP.11 and 6/COP.12,

Stressing the importance of the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Noting the dialogue with the private sector during the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note of* the results of the initiatives undertaken within the business engagement strategy of the Convention, and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue engaging the private sector;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to increase and enhance engagement with the private sector to promote implementation of the Convention and work to that effect in meetings and processes of the Convention, as appropriate;

3. *Also requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 7/COP.13

The future strategic framework of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 3/COP.8, 12/COP.11, 7/COP.12, 8/COP.12 and 10/COP.12,

Recognizing that the adoption of a strategic framework contributes to a more focused, targeted, effective and efficient implementation of the UNCCD and to systematic monitoring and assessment of progress in the implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) related to desertification, land degradation and drought, as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which is an integral part of it, and *recognizing* the important impact that United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) implementation will have on the overall achievement of their objectives,

Welcoming the endorsement of the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality[6] and the work done by the Global Mechanism, particularly to put this concept into action through the voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme,

Highlighting the importance of civil society in all matters relating to UNCCD implementation at local, national, subregional and regional levels and reconfirming the important role of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the strategic framework (UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework) annexed to this decision,

Acknowledging that gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and youth will make a crucial contribution to the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Noting the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security[7] and *recognizing* their potential contribution to the effective implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Recalling decision 15/COP.13 that requests the Committee on Science and Technology to assist in the work relating to the establishment and improvement of the monitoring framework for strategic objective 3 of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Emphasizing the potential for synergies in efforts to address desertification/land degradation and drought and other major environmental challenges,

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[6] Decision 18/COP.13

[7] <www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

Welcoming the continued support from the Global Environment Facility for the implementation of the Convention, in particular the funding of enabling activities by the Global Environment Facility, including the alignment of national action programmes,

1. *Decides* to adopt the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework annexed to this decision;

2. *Strongly encourages* Parties to apply and, as appropriate, align with the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework in their national policies, programmes, plans and processes relating to desertification/land degradation and drought, including in their National Action Programmes, as appropriate;

3. *Decides* that while implementing the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, all UNCCD stakeholders and partners should take into account the need for gender-responsive policies and measures; they will strive to ensure the full and effective participation of both men and women in planning, decision-making and implementation at all levels, and enhance the empowerment of women, girls and youth in the affected areas;

4. *Encourages* the Parties to further enhance the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

5. *Also requests* UNCCD institutions and bodies, and invites multilateral and bilateral partners to support Parties in the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Annex

The UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework

I. Introduction

1. Desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) are challenges of a global dimension. They contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration. They continue to pose serious challenges to the sustainable development of all countries, particularly affected countries.

2. Addressing DLDD will involve long-term integrated strategies that simultaneously focus on the improved productivity of land and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) can play a central role in addressing these issues through capacity-building, the sharing of successful experiences, technology transfer, the provision of scientific support, awareness-raising, mobilization of resources and the provision of assistance to countries in implementing policies at national, subregional, regional and international levels.

3. The strategy will contribute to (i) achieving the objectives of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular regarding Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 and target 15.3: "by 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world" and other interrelated SDGs, within the scope of the Convention; (ii) improving the living conditions of affected populations; and (iii) enhancing ecosystems services.

II. Vision

4. A future that avoids, minimizes, and reverses desertification/land degradation and mitigates the effects of drought in affected areas at all levels and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within the scope of the Convention.

III. Strategic objectives and expected impacts

5. The following "strategic objectives" will guide the actions of all UNCCD stakeholders and partners in the period 2018–2030. Meeting these long-term objectives will contribute to achieving the above-mentioned vision within the scope of the Convention, taking into account particular regional and national conditions.

Strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality

Expected impact 1.1 Land productivity and related ecosystems services are maintained or enhanced.

Expected impact 1.2 The vulnerability of affected ecosystems is reduced and the resilience of ecosystems is increased.

Expected impact 1.3 National voluntary land degradation neutrality targets are set and adopted by countries wishing to do so, related measures are identified and implemented, and necessary monitoring systems are established.

Expected impact 1.4 Measures for sustainable land management and the combating of desertification/land degradation are shared, promoted and implemented.

Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations

Expected impact 2.1 Food security and adequate access to water for people in affected areas is improved.

Expected impact 2.2 The livelihoods of people in affected areas are improved and diversified.

Expected impact 2.3 Local people, especially women and youth, are empowered and participate in decision-making processes in combating DLDD.

Expected impact 2.4 Migration forced by desertification and land degradation is substantially reduced.

Strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems

Expected impact 3.1 Ecosystems' vulnerability to drought is reduced, including through sustainable land and water management practices.

Expected impact 3.2 Communities' resilience to drought is increased.

Strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD

Expected impact 4.1 Sustainable land management and the combating of desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and addressing climate change.

Expected impact 4.2 Synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and processes are enhanced.

Strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level

Expected impact 5.1 Adequate and timely public and private financial resources are further mobilized and made available to affected country Parties, including through domestic resource mobilization.

Expected impact 5.2 International support is provided for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building and "on-the-ground interventions" in affected country Parties to support the implementation of the Convention, including through North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation.

Expected impact 5.3 Extensive efforts are implemented to promote technology transfer, especially on favourable terms and including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and to mobilize other non-financial resources.

IV. Implementation framework

6. The Strategy will be implemented primarily through actions at national or subregional levels, with the support of UNCCD institutions, partners and other relevant stakeholders. This section defines the roles and responsibilities of the various Parties, UNCCD institutions, partners and stakeholders in meeting the above-mentioned strategic objectives.

A. Parties

7. Parties bear the main responsibility in the implementation of The Strategy, including through their national action programmes, and would need to steer implementation in accordance with their national priorities and in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership.

8. The Strategy will become an effective tool that guides national, subnational and local implementation while enabling Parties to undertake an assessment of implementation at the level of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC). Each Party could implement The Strategy by taking advantage of partnerships, including public–private partnerships, and innovative agreements.

9. Through this Strategy and in accordance with their obligations as stated in the Convention, Parties aim to:

With respect to financial and non-financial resources:

(a) Increase mobilization of financial and non-financial resources for the implementation of the Convention from international and domestic, public and private sources as well as from local communities, including non-traditional funding sources, and climate finance;

(b) Take advantage of the opportunity to use land degradation neutrality as a framework to enhance the coherence, effectiveness and multiple benefits of investments;

(c) To improve the use of existing and/or innovative financial processes and institutions (such as the Global Environment Facility or other newer funds);

With respect to policy and planning:

(d) Develop, implement, revise and regularly monitor, as appropriate, national, subregional and regional action programmes and/or plans as effective tools for UNCCD implementation;

(e) Establish policies and enabling environments for promoting and implementing solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought, including prevention, relief and recovery;

(f) Leverage synergies and integrate DLDD, while optimizing efficacy and eliminating duplication of efforts, into (i) national plans related to the other multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the other Rio conventions; and (ii) other international commitments as appropriate, within their respective mandates;

(g) Mainstream DLDD as appropriate into economic, environmental and social policies, with a view to increasing the impact and effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention;

(h) Establish national policies, measures and governance for drought preparedness and management, including drought contingency plans, according to the mandate of the Convention;

With respect to actions on the ground:

(i) Implement sustainable land management practices;

(j) Implement restoration and rehabilitation practices in order to assist with the recovery of ecosystem functions and services;

(k) Develop and operationalize drought risk management, monitoring and early warning systems and safety-net programmes, as appropriate;

(l) Promote alternative livelihoods;

(m) Establish systems for sharing information and knowledge and facilitate networking on best practices and approaches to drought management.

B. Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

10. Under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the CRIC plays a central role in assisting the COP in the review of the implementation of the Convention and this Strategy by, inter alia:

(a) Assessing reports submitted by Parties and other reporting entities with the aim of producing targeted recommendations and draft decisions for consideration by the COP;

(b) Facilitating the exchange of information on measures adopted by Parties through formal and informal interactive sessions and online platforms on topical issues, including capacity-building, best practices and lessons learned relating to on-the-ground implementation.

C. Committee on Science and Technology

11. At the request of the COP, the Committee on Science and Technology will provide, with input from the Science–Policy Interface, scientific advice for the assessment and implementation of the Convention and The Strategy by:

(a) Contributing to improving the scientific understanding of and knowledge on the processes leading to and solutions to address desertification/land degradation and drought;

(b) Contributing to addressing specific needs of local populations and helping to identify solutions that improve the standards of living of people in affected areas;

(c) Facilitating networking among scientific institutions related to DLDD and ongoing activities through the Science Policy Interface to provide recommendations for implementation;

(d) Assisting the CRIC through the timely provision of scientific advice on methodological matters related to reporting.

D. Global Mechanism

12. The Global Mechanism has a central responsibility to contribute to financial mobilization, support technology transfer and explore opportunities for increasing financing for the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy. It does this by:

(a) Supporting resource mobilization for the implementation of the Convention and The Strategy;

(b) Assisting affected country Parties in exploring solutions for resource mobilization corresponding to the needs expressed in the countries' UNCCD action programmes;

(c) Spearheading, in collaboration with relevant partners, the establishment of new funding options, including the possible creation of an independent Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDN Fund) for the implementation of The Strategy.

E. Secretariat

13. The successful implementation of this Strategy requires the continued strong core servicing advocacy, agenda-setting and representation functions of the UNCCD secretariat with commensurate capacity and resources in order to support Parties, the COP and the subsidiary bodies of the Convention in fulfilling their respective roles.

V. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation

14. Monitoring the progress made in the implementation of The New Strategy will be done through national reporting and sharing of national experiences, best practices and lessons learned from Parties to the COP and a review and evaluation by the CRIC for consideration by the COP.

15. Reporting on progress towards the strategic objectives is required provided that (i) Parties have sufficient official national data/information to report or validate national estimates derived from global data sources; and (ii) reporting is provided primarily from official national data.

16. Indicators for strategic objectives should be reviewed and fine-tuned, as necessary and appropriate, in consideration of the reporting system/indicators for the SDGs and with reference to the follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Rio conventions and other relevant MEAs in order to improve their synergetic implementation and avoid duplication.

17. Reporting on chapter IV of The Strategy (implementation framework) will be done through qualitative reporting and on a voluntary basis until the CRIC has considered refining the reporting guidelines. In order to ensure that interactive sessions can be organized during sessional and intersessional sessions of the CRIC on information provided in reports, the COP will identify, where needed, specific topics that will be reviewed during those sessions.

Progress indicators used to report on strategic objectives 1–4 of the Strategy

18. Indicators used for reporting on The Strategy are those identified by Parties in decisions 22/COP.11 (for strategic objectives 1–3) and 15/COP.12 (for strategic objective

4). In addition to indicators agreed by the COP, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention also introduced new indicators for strategic objective 4 (see table below).

19. Parties may wish to report on progress towards expected impacts for strategic objectives 1–3 which are not fully covered by this set of indicators by using nationally relevant quantitative indicators or qualitative information, as appropriate.

Table
List of progress indicators used to report on strategic objectives 1–5 of the Strategy

Strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems	
SO 1-1	Trends in land cover
SO 1-2	Trends in land productivity or functioning of the land
SO 1-3	Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground
Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations	
SO 2-1	Trends in population living below the relative poverty line and/or income inequality in affected areas
SO 2-2	Trends in access to safe drinking water in affected areas
Strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems	
	Monitored through qualitative information
Strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD	
SO 4-1	Trends in carbon stocks above and below ground
SO 4-2	Trends in abundance and distribution of selected species
Strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level	
SO 5-1	Trends in international bilateral and multilateral official development assistance
SO 5-2	Trends in domestic public resources
SO 5-3	Trends in number of co-financing partners
SO 5-4	Resources mobilized from innovative sources of finance, including from the private sector

The indicators below were identified to report on achievements made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development" and particularly SDG targets related to technology and capacity-building. These indicators may be subject to change within the framework of the SDG process[a] and are hence listed as a tentative future source of information.	
SO 5-5	Total amount of approved funding for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies
SO 5-6	Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation
SO 5-7	United States dollar value of financial and technical assistance, including through North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation, committed to developing countries and countries with economies in transition

[a] Indicators and information on SDG 17 will be reviewed yearly by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Decision 8/COP.13

Enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the enhancement, strengthening and promotion of capacity building

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 19 of the the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Also recalling decision 3/COP.8, containing the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (The Strategy),

Recognizing decision 7/COP.13 and *welcoming* the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Recalling decision 1/COP.9, decision 1/COP.10, decision 1/COP.11, decision 3/COP.12 and decision 13/COP.12,

Restating the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, being cognizant of the importance of capacity building in achieving the same as outlined in Goal 17,

Reaffirming that capacity building at all levels, in particular at the local and community level, is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention,

Welcoming the efforts made by Convention institutions and bodies in support of the enhancement, strengthening and promotion of capacity building to further the implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the need for enhanced efforts to ensure targeted and coordinated capacity building within the framework of the UNCCD process, particularly in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, within available resources to:

(a) Continue targeted capacity building to support the implementation of the Convention, including land degradation neutrality by Parties, And, to do so in cooperation with Parties and relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as the private sector, civil society organizations and other stakeholders;

(b) Continue fostering partnerships to facilitate capacity development for, inter alia, national drought preparedness planning, drought early warning, risk and vulnerability assessments, mitigation of enhanced drought risk and the impacts of sand and dust storms;

(c) Further develop and promote tools for cost-effective capacity building under the Convention, including inter alia the Capacity Building Marketplace and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub;

(d) Develop and strengthen partnerships to build the required capacities to mainstream gender in the implementation of the Convention in order to enhance the role of women and youth in combating desertification/land degradation and drought and increase the resilience of the women vulnerable to desertification/land degradation and drought;

(e) In cooperation with partners, make scientific knowledge and best practices available for stakeholders in the Convention through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, aimed at, inter alia, scaling up sustainable land management practices and increasing the knowledge and scientific and technical skills of stakeholders in the Convention;

2. *Requests* Parties and the Convention institutions and bodies, and *invites* intergovernmental and regional organizations and agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector to cooperate on capacity building to support the implementation of the Convention at all levels, particularly local and community levels;

3. *Invites* Parties and technical and financial institutions to continue to provide technical and financial support for effective and targeted capacity development in support of the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to report on the implementation of this decision at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 9/COP.13

Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 9/COP.12, which requests a review and assessment of the progress made by the secretariat in promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies,

Acknowledging that the implementation of the Convention benefits from strong and effective relationships that are able to leverage the appropriate synergies with organizations that have overlapping or convergent mandates,

Reaffirming the usefulness of the three land-based progress indicators as set out in decision 9/COP.12 for reporting under the Rio conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are coherent with the progress indicators/metrics adopted in decision 22/COP.11, namely: (i) trends in land cover; (ii) trends in land productivity or functioning of the land; and (iii) trends in carbon stock above and below ground,

Recognizing the benefits that can be derived from collaboration with external bodies and experts to assist countries in monitoring and reporting on the three progress indicators/metrics,

Welcoming initiatives undertaken to address gender inequality and empower women and girls in the implementation of the Convention,

Reiterating that addressing gender inequality that contributes to land degradation would enhance the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Invites* the Group on Earth Observation to support the efforts of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in implementing the Convention by providing space-based information and in situ measurements to assist countries in fulfilling the reporting requirements for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 and fostering data access, national data capacity-building and the development of standards and protocols;

2. *Requests* the secretariat and appropriate Convention bodies and institutions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to:

(a) Continue working with the Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators in its role as the custodian agency to finalize the methodology and data management protocols for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1 and begin coordination related to national, regional and global reporting according to the protocols established within the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework;

(b) Build on and strengthen collaboration with relevant United Nations entities and the Rio conventions secretariats, as well as development partners and relevant international organizations, to support gender mainstreaming at all levels, but especially at the national and subnational levels, activities on sand and dust storms, drought monitoring, preparedness and early warning systems, drought vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation measures;

8. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, according to their respective mandates and within existing resources, to continue to fulfil their respective roles in established partnerships and any new partnerships that may be necessary in order to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and, if appropriate, to bring these partnerships to the attention of the Conference of the Parties for any necessary action;

9. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 10/COP.13

Programme and budget for the biennium 2018–2019

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),[8]

Also recalling decision 7/COP.13,

Further recalling decision 9/COP.9 on the programme and budget for the biennium 2010–2011,

Having considered the information contained in the documents prepared by the secretariat and the Global Mechanism on the programme and budget,[9]

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 in the amount of EUR 16,188,082 for the purposes specified in table 1 below;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Government of Germany for its biennial voluntary contribution to the core budget of EUR 1,022,584 and its special contribution of EUR 1,022,584 (Bonn Fund) as host Government to the secretariat;

3. *Approves* the staffing table for the programme budget, as contained in table 2 below;

4. *Recognizes* the need to increase the level of working capital reserve and, in this regard, authorizes the Executive Secretary to draw on available cash resources from the core budget, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income to increase the working capital reserve to 12 per cent for the biennium 2018–2019;

5. *Adopts* the indicative scale of contributions for 2018 and 2019, contained in the annex to this decision;

6. *Invites* all Parties to the Convention to note that contributions to the core budget are expected on or before 1 January of each year, in accordance with paragraph 14 (a) of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to make transfers between each of the main appropriation lines as set out in table 1 below, up to an aggregate limit of 20 per cent of the total estimated expenditure for those appropriation lines, provided that a further limitation of up to minus 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties on any such transfers;

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[8] Decision 2/COP.1, annex.

[9] Documents ICCD/COP(13)/7 and Corr.1; ICCD/COP(13)/8-ICCD/CRIC(16)/2; ICCD/CRIC(16)/3; ICCD/COP(13)/9; ICCD/COP(13)/10; ICCD/COP(13)/11; ICCD/COP(13)/12; and ICCD/COP(13)/13.

8. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to establish lower-level positions in addition to the approved staffing table as set out in table 2 below within a budget for staff costs not to exceed EUR 10,581,075; and *requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

9. *Invites* the United Nations General Assembly to include, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2018–2019, the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for the biennium;

10. *Approves* a contingency budget as set out in table 3 below, amounting to EUR 2,073,550, for conference servicing, to be added to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 in the event that the General Assembly decides not to provide resources for these activities in the United Nations regular budget;

11. *Decides* that, to the extent that offsetting voluntary contributions for the purpose expressed in paragraph 10 does not reach this amount, the balance will be included in the contingency budget for conference servicing;

12. *Takes note* of the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 1,496,000, as set out in table 4 below, in the event that the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties is held in Bonn, Germany;

13. *Also takes note* of the estimated additional costs of up to EUR 678,000, as set out in table 5 below, in the event that the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention is held in Bonn, Germany;

14. *Further takes note* of the funding estimates for the Special Trust Fund specified by the Executive Secretary in table 6 below, and *invites* Parties to make contributions to this Fund;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on the status of income and expenditure and budget performance, using a results-based approach;

16. *Notes* the ongoing discussions at the United Nations General Assembly on the level of a working capital reserve and, in the event that a decision is reached on the subject, *requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session;

17. In order to review, as appropriate, the *Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat* as regards the indicative scale of contributions, *further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, a report on the methodology and practice regarding the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a results-based budget and work programmes for the biennium 2020–2021 in line with decision 1/COP.11 on workplans, presenting two budget scenarios, and work programmes based on the projected needs for the biennium in (1) a zero nominal growth scenario; and (2) a scenario based on further recommended adjustments to the first scenario and the added costs or savings related to them;

Financial performance of the Convention trust funds

19. *Approves* the following amendment to the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat:[10]

Replace paragraph 21 with the following:

"The United Nations shall provide the Parties with an audited statement of accounts for each year of the financial period."

20. *Takes note of* the audited financial statements for the Global Mechanism as at 30 September 2013, and the secretariat and Global Mechanism for the biennium 2014–2015, and *also takes note of* the report on financial performance and the reports on the implementation of the work programmes of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism for the biennium 2016–2017, and the status of contributions as at 15 August 2017;

21. *Further takes note* of the observations made by the Board of Auditors in its report on the audited financial statements for the Convention trust funds for the biennium 2016–2017 as at 31 December 2016, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to implement the recommendations, as appropriate;

22. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to use an amount not exceeding EUR 1,815,651 from the reserves of the Trust Fund for the Core Budget of the UNCCD for the implementation of the drought initiative, described in decision 29/COP.13;

23. *Expresses appreciation* to Parties that have paid their contributions to the core budget in a timely manner;

24. *Calls upon* Parties that have not paid their contributions to the core budget to do so without delay, bearing in mind that contributions are expected on or before 1 January of each year;

25. *Urges* Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to address this issue as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial stability of the Convention through contributions by all Parties;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue engaging Parties with outstanding contributions from past years with a view to the Parties entering into a voluntary plan to pay the outstanding contribution and to continue to report on the implementation of any arrangements regarding outstanding contributions;

27. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report on core budget contributions made by Parties for prior financial periods that have been received during the biennium 2018–2019;

28. *Expresses appreciation* for the contributions received from Parties to the Supplementary Fund, the Special Fund and the extrabudgetary funds of the Global Mechanism;

Evaluation reports

29. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the independent evaluations and assessments summarized in document ICCD/COP(13)/14, and *requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to use these recommendations in planning and conducting their work;

[10] Decision 2/COP.1, annex.

30. *Takes note* of the proposed 2018–2019 workplan of the UNCCD Evaluation Office.

Table 1
Resource requirements by subprogramme
(Euros)

I. Secretariat programmes	*2018*	*2019*	*Total core budget*
A. Executive direction and management	1 025 042	1 025 043	2 050 085
B. External relations, policy and advocacy	1 086 450	1 086 450	2 172 900
C. Science, technology and implementation	1 976 700	1 976 700	3 953 400
D. Administrative services	1 254 525	1 254 526	2 509 051
II. Global Mechanism			
E. Global Mechanism	1 820 150	1 820 150	3 640 300
Subtotal (A-E)	7 162 868	7 162 868	14 325 736
III. Programme support costs (13%)	931 173	931 173	1 862 346
IV. Working capital reserve	-	-	-
TOTAL (I-IV)	8 094 041	8 094 041	16 188 082
Income			
Contribution from the host Government	511 292	511 292	1 022 584
Indicative contributions	7 582 749	7 582 749	15 165 498
TOTAL Income	8 094 041	8 094 041	16 188 082

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Actual	Required	
	2017	2018	2019
Secretariat			
A. Professional category and above			
USG	1.00	1.00	1.00
ASG	0.00	0.00	0.00
D-2	1.00	1.00	1.00
D-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
P-5	7.00	7.00	7.00
P-4	7.00	7.00	7.00
P-3	4.00	4.00	4.00
P-2	1.00	1.00	1.00
P-1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal A. Professional category and above	21.00	21.00	21.00
B. General Service category	10.00	10.00	10.00
Total (A + B)	**31.00**	**31.00**	**31.00**

	Actual	Required	
	2017	2018	2019
Global Mechanism			
A. Professional category and above			
D-1	1.00	1.00	1.00
P-5	1.00	1.00	1.00
P-4	2.00	2.00	2.00
P-3	4.00	4.00	4.00
P-2	2.00	2.00	2.00
Subtotal A. Professional category and above	10.00	10.00	10.00
B. General Service category	4.00	4.00	4.00
Total (A + B)	**14.00**	**14.00**	**14.00**
Grand total	**45.00**	**45.00**	**45.00**

Table 3
Contingency budget for conference servicing
(Euros)

Object of expenditure	*2016–2017*	*2018–2019*
United Nations meetings services	1 835 000	1 835 000
Programme support costs	238 550	238 550
TOTAL	**2 073 550**	**2 073 550**

Table 4
Resource requirements for hosting the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn
(Euros)

Object of expenditure	*2016–2017*	*2018–2019*
Incremental costs	1 204 000	1 204 000
Contingencies	120 000	120 000
Subtotal	1 324 000	1 324 000
Programme support costs	172 000	172 000
TOTAL	**1 496 000**	**1 496 000**

Table 5

Resource requirements for hosting the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

(Euros)

Object of expenditure	*2018–2019*
Incremental costs	540 000
Contingencies	60 000
Subtotal	**600 000**
Programme support costs	78 000
TOTAL	**678 000**

Table 6

Estimated resource requirements for participation in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification process for the biennium 2018–2019 (Special Trust Fund)

(Euros)

Sessions	*Estimated cost*
Seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	900 000
Fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties [a]	1 300 000
	2 200 000

[a] Includes estimates for the participation of affected country representatives, e.g. national focal points, with a second rep from least developed countries, and science and technology correspondents

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Annex

Indicative scale of contributions for the core budget of the Convention for 2018–2019

Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[a]		*(c)*	*United Nations scale*	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2018*	*2018 indicative contributions (Euros)*	*Indicative scale of assessment for 2019*	*2019 indicative contributions (Euros)*	***Total amount payable (Euros)***
1	Afghanistan	LDC	0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
2	Albania		0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1.182
3	Algeria		0.161	0.157	11.903	0.157	11.903	23.806
4	Andorra		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
5	Angola	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1.478
6	Antigua and Barbuda		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
7	Argentina		0.892	0.870	65.945	0.870	65.945	131.890
8	Armenia		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
9	Australia		2.337	2.279	172.773	2.279	172.773	345.546
10	Austria		0.720	0.702	53.229	0.702	53.229	106.458
11	Azerbaijan		0.060	0.058	4.436	0.058	4.436	8.872
12	Bahamas		0.014	0.014	1.035	0.014	1.035	2.070
13	Bahrain		0.044	0.043	3.253	0.043	3.253	6.506
14	Bangladesh	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1.478
15	Barbados		0.007	0.007	518	0.007	518	1.036
16	Belarus		0.056	0.055	4.140	0.055	4.140	8.280
17	Belgium		0.885	0.863	65.428	0.863	65.428	130.856
18	Belize		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
19	Benin	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
20	Bhutan	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		0.012	0.012	887	0.012	887	1.774
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina		0.013	0.013	961	0.013	961	1.922
23	Botswana		0.014	0.014	1.035	0.014	1.035	2.070
24	Brazil		3.823	3.727	282.633	3.727	282.633	565.266
25	Brunei Darussalam		0.029	0.028	2.144	0.028	2.144	4.288
26	Bulgaria		0.045	0.044	3.327	0.044	3.327	6.654
27	Burkina Faso	LDC	0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
28	Burundi	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
29	Cabo Verde		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
30	Cambodia	LDC	0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
31	Cameroon		0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1.478
32	Canada		2.921	2.848	215.948	2.848	215.948	431.896
33	Central African Republic	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
34	Chad	LDC	0.005	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
35	Chile		0.399	0.389	29.498	0.389	29.498	58.996
36	China		7.921	7.723	585.596	7.723	585.596	1.171.192
37	Colombia		0.322	0.314	23.805	0.314	23.805	47.610
38	Comoros	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152

39	Congo		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
40	Cook Islands		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
41	Costa Rica		0.047	0.046	3,475	0.046	3,475	6,950
42	Côte d'Ivoire		0.009	0.009	665	0.009	665	1,330
43	Croatia		0.099	0.097	7,319	0.097	7,319	14,638
44	Cuba		0.065	0.063	4,805	0.063	4,805	9,610
45	Cyprus		0.043	0.042	3,179	0.042	3,179	6,358
46	Czechia		0.344	0.335	25,432	0.335	25,432	50,864
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea		0.005	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	LDC	0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1,182
49	Denmark		0.584	0.569	43,175	0.569	43,175	86,350
50	Djibouti	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
51	Dominica		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
52	Dominican Republic		0.046	0.045	3,401	0.045	3,401	6,802
53	Ecuador		0.067	0.065	4,953	0.065	4,953	9,906
54	Egypt		0.152	0.148	11,237	0.148	11,237	22,474
55	El Salvador		0.014	0.014	1,035	0.014	1,035	2,070
56	Equatorial Guinea	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
57	Eritrea	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
58	Estonia		0.038	0.037	2,809	0.037	2,809	5,618
59	Ethiopia	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
60	European Union		2.500	2.500	189,569	2.500	189,569	379,138
61	Fiji		0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
62	Finland		0.456	0.445	33,712	0.445	33,712	67,424
63	France		4.859	4.737	359,224	4.737	359,224	718,448
64	Gabon		0.017	0.017	1,257	0.017	1,257	2,514
65	Gambia	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
66	Georgia		0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1,182
67	Germany		6.389	6.229	472,336	6.229	472,336	944,672
68	Ghana		0.016	0.016	1,183	0.016	1,183	2,366
69	Greece		0.471	0.459	34,821	0.459	34,821	69,642
70	Grenada		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
71	Guatemala		0.028	0.027	2,070	0.027	2,070	4,140
72	Guinea	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
73	Guinea-Bissau	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
74	Guyana		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
75	Haiti	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
76	Honduras		0.008	0.008	591	0.008	591	1,182
77	Hungary		0.161	0.157	11,903	0.157	11,903	23,806
78	Iceland		0.023	0.022	1,700	0.022	1,700	3,400
79	India		0.737	0.719	54,486	0.719	54,486	108,972
80	Indonesia		0.504	0.491	37,261	0.491	37,261	74,522
81	Iran (Islamic Republic of)		0.471	0.459	34,821	0.459	34,821	69,642
82	Iraq		0.129	0.126	9,537	0.126	9,537	19,074
83	Ireland		0.335	0.327	24,766	0.327	24,766	49,532
84	Israel		0.430	0.419	31,790	0.419	31,790	63,580
85	Italy		3.748	3.654	277,088	3.654	277,088	554,176
86	Jamaica		0.009	0.009	665	0.009	665	1,330

87	Japan		9.680	9.438	715,638	9.438	715,638	1,431,276
88	Jordan		0.020	0.019	1,479	0.019	1,479	2,958
89	Kazakhstan		0.191	0.186	14,121	0.186	14,121	28,242
90	Kenya		0.018	0.018	1,331	0.018	1,331	2,662
91	Kiribati	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
92	Kuwait		0.285	0.278	21,070	0.278	21,070	42,140
93	Kyrgyzstan		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
94	Lao People's Democratic Republic	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
95	Latvia		0.050	0.049	3,696	0.049	3,696	7,392
96	Lebanon		0.046	0.045	3,401	0.045	3,401	6,802
97	Lesotho	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
98	Liberia	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
99	Libya		0.125	0.122	9,241	0.122	9,241	18,482
100	Liechtenstein		0.007	0.007	518	0.007	518	1,036
101	Lithuania		0.072	0.070	5,323	0.070	5,323	10,646
102	Luxembourg		0.064	0.062	4,731	0.062	4,731	9,462
103	Madagascar	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
104	Malawi	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
105	Malaysia		0.322	0.314	23,805	0.314	23,805	47,610
106	Maldives		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
107	Mali	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
108	Malta		0.016	0.016	1,183	0.016	1,183	2,366
109	Marshall Islands		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
110	Mauritania	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
111	Mauritius		0.012	0.012	887	0.012	887	1,774
112	Mexico		1.435	1.399	106,089	1.399	106,089	212,178
113	Micronesia (Federated States of)		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
114	Monaco		0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
115	Mongolia		0.005	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
116	Montenegro		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
117	Morocco		0.054	0.053	3,992	0.053	3,992	7,984
118	Mozambique		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
119	Myanmar	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
120	Namibia		0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
121	Nauru		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
122	Nepal	LDC	0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
123	Netherlands		1.482	1.445	109,564	1.445	109,564	219,128
124	New Zealand		0.268	0.261	19,813	0.261	19,813	39,626
125	Nicaragua		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
126	Niger	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
127	Nigeria		0.209	0.204	15,451	0.204	15,451	30,902
128	Niue		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
129	Norway		0.849	0.828	62,766	0.828	62,766	125,532
130	Oman		0.113	0.110	8,354	0.110	8,354	16,708
131	Pakistan		0.093	0.091	6,875	0.091	6,875	13,750
132	Palau		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
133	Panama		0.034	0.033	2,514	0.033	2,514	5,028
134	Papua New Guinea		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
135	Paraguay		0.014	0.014	1,035	0.014	1,035	2,070

136	Peru		0.136	0.133	10,054	0.133	10,054	20,108
137	Philippines		0.165	0.161	12,198	0.161	12,198	24,396
138	Poland		0.841	0.820	62,175	0.820	62,175	124,350
139	Portugal		0.392	0.382	28,980	0.382	28,980	57,960
140	Qatar		0.269	0.262	19,887	0.262	19,887	39,774
141	Republic of Korea		2.039	1.988	150,742	1.988	150,742	301,484
142	Republic of Moldova		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
143	Romania		0.184	0.179	13,603	0.179	13,603	27,206
144	Russian Federation		3.088	3.011	228,295	3.011	228,295	456,590
145	Rwanda	LDC	0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
146	Saint Kitts and Nevis		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
147	Saint Lucia		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
148	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
149	Samoa		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
150	San Marino		0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
151	Sao Tome and Principe	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
152	Saudi Arabia		1.146	1.117	84,723	1.117	84,723	169,446
153	Senegal	LDC	0.005	0.005	370	0.005	370	740
154	Serbia		0.032	0.031	2,366	0.031	2,366	4,732
155	Seychelles		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
156	Sierra Leone	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
157	Singapore		0.447	0.436	33,047	0.436	33,047	66,094
158	Slovakia		0.160	0.156	11,829	0.156	11,829	23,658
159	Slovenia		0.084	0.082	6,210	0.082	6,210	12,420
160	Solomon Islands	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
161	Somalia	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
162	South Africa		0.364	0.355	26,910	0.355	26,910	53,820
163	South Sudan	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
164	Spain		2.443	2.382	180,610	2.382	180,610	361,220
165	Sri Lanka		0.031	0.030	2,292	0.030	2,292	4,584
166	Sudan	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1,478
167	Suriname		0.006	0.006	444	0.006	444	888
168	Swaziland		0.002	0.002	148	0.002	148	296
169	Sweden		0.956	0.932	70,677	0.932	70,677	141,354
170	Switzerland		1.140	1.111	84,280	1.111	84,280	168,560
171	Syrian Arab Republic		0.024	0.023	1,774	0.023	1,774	3,548
172	Tajikistan		0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
173	Thailand		0.291	0.284	21,514	0.284	21,514	43,028
174	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		0.007	0.007	518	0.007	518	1,036
175	Timor-Leste	LDC	0.003	0.003	222	0.003	222	444
176	Togo	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
177	Tonga		0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
178	Trinidad and Tobago		0.034	0.033	2,514	0.033	2,514	5,028
179	Tunisia		0.028	0.027	2,070	0.027	2,070	4,140
180	Turkey		1.018	0.993	75,260	0.993	75,260	150,520
181	Turkmenistan		0.026	0.025	1,922	0.025	1,922	3,844
182	Tuvalu	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
183	Uganda	LDC	0.009	0.009	665	0.009	665	1,330
184	Ukraine		0.103	0.100	7,615	0.100	7,615	15,230

185	United Arab Emirates		0.604	0.589	44 653	0.589	44 653	89 306
186	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island		4.463	4.351	329 948	4.351	329 948	659 896
187	United Republic of Tanzania	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1 478
188	United States of America		22.000	21.449	1 626 450	21.449	1 626 450	3 252 900
189	Uruguay		0.079	0.077	5 840	0.077	5 840	11 680
190	Uzbekistan		0.023	0.022	1 700	0.022	1 700	3 400
191	Vanuatu	LDC	0.001	0.001	76	0.001	76	152
192	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		0.571	0.557	42 214	0.557	42 214	84 428
193	Viet Nam		0.058	0.057	4 288	0.057	4 288	8 576
194	Yemen	LDC	0.010	0.010	739	0.010	739	1 478
195	Zambia	LDC	0.007	0.007	518	0.007	518	1 036
196	Zimbabwe	LDC	0.004	0.004	296	0.004	296	592
	Total from Parties		102.502	100.000	7 582 749	100.000	7 582 749	15 165 498

a Parties include States and regional economic integration organizations that are Parties as of 31 May 2017.

Abbreviation: LDC = least developed country.

Note: The United States of America views its funding to the core budget of the Convention as a voluntary contribution.

Decision 11/COP.13

Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 6/COP.7, whereby it adopted the current Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Global Environment Facility,

Also recalling decision 11/COP.12, whereby Parties invited the secretariat of the UNCCD to continue working with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to revise the Memorandum of Understanding in light of the text of the Convention as well as decisions from the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, in particular 9/COP.12, paragraph 4, 8/COP.12, and 3/COP.12,

Taking note of the letter to the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, dated 29 June 2017, from the Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, submitting the draft amended Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Council of the Global Environment Facility on Enhanced Collaboration, and further to consultations between the two secretariats,

Also taking note of document ICCD/COP(13)/18,

Having considered the aforementioned draft Memorandum of Understanding which is annexed hereto,

1. *Adopts* the attached new Memorandum of Understanding;

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Requests* the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to implement the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Annex

Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Council of the Global Environment Facility on Enhanced Collaboration

Introduction

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (hereinafter the UNCCD), represented by its Executive Secretary and the Global Environment Facility (hereinafter the GEF) Council represented by its Chief Executive Officer/Chairperson,

Whereas, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), dated 28 October 2005, was concluded between the GEF and the UNCCD;

Whereas, pursuant to article 21 of the UNCCD which provides that "the Conference of the Parties shall promote the availability of financial mechanisms and shall encourage such mechanisms to seek to maximize the availability of funding for affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, to implement the Convention";

Whereas, the decision of the Fourth GEF Assembly (Punta del Este, Uruguay, May 25-26, 2010) amended the GEF Instrument so that GEF shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD;

Whereas, the decision of the Second GEF Assembly (Beijing, China, October 16-18, 2002) to amend the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF to include land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as one of the six focal areas of the GEF, and to include as a function of the GEF Secretariat, coordination, on behalf of the Council, with the Secretariat of the UNCCD;

Whereas, decision 6/COP.6 of the UNCCD accepted the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD pursuant to article 20, paragraph 2 (b) and article 21 of the Convention and requested the UNCCD Secretariat as part of its functions, to coordinate, on behalf of the UNCCD COP, with the GEF;

Whereas, decisions 6/COP.7, 6/COP.8, 10/COP.9, 11/COP.10, and 11/COP.11 of the UNCCD provided for collaboration between the GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat;

Whereas, the 36th Session of the GEF Council Meeting (Washington, D.C., November 10, 2009) adopted a decision regarding the funding of enabling activities in addition to the System for a Transparent Allocation of Resources;

Recalling decision 6/COP.10 on the Governance and institutional arrangements of the Global Mechanism, which decided that the accountability and the legal representation of

the Global Mechanism shall be transferred from the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the UNCCD secretariat;

Recalling decision 3/COP.8 of the UNCCD on the Ten Year Strategy, which invited the GEF to take the Strategy into account while planning and programming for the next replenishment period, to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention;

Recalling the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility, as amended by the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth GEF Assemblies;

Whereas, the MOU between the GEF and the UNCCD, dated 28 October 2005, needs to be amended in accordance with decision 11/COP.10 and decision 11/COP.11 of the UNCCD;

Whereas, decision 11/COP.12 invites the UNCCD secretariat to continue working with the secretariat of the GEF to revise the MOU in light of the text of the Convention, including its objective, as well as decisions from COP 12, in particular 9/COP.12, paragraph 4, 8/COP.12, and 3/COP.12,

Have agreed as follows:

Definitions

1. For the purpose of this MOU:

(a) "Assembly" means the Assembly of the GEF as defined in the paragraph 13 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;

(b) "Conference of the Parties" means the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa defined in article 22 of the Convention;

(c) "Convention" means the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

(d) "GEF Council" means the Council of the GEF as defined in paragraphs 15 to 20 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;

(e) "Focal areas of the GEF" means the focal areas provided in paragraph 2 of the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;

(f) "GEF" means the Global Environment Facility established pursuant to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility;

(g) "GEF Instrument" means the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility as amended;

(h) "Implementing and Executing Agencies" means the Implementing Agencies as defined in paragraph 22 of the GEF Instrument and Implementing and Executing Agencies benefiting from expanded opportunities pursuant to the decisions of the Council;

(i) "MOU" means this Amended Memorandum of Understanding; and

(j) "Party" means Party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Coherence between the UNCCD and the GEF

2. The coherence between the objectives of the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area and the objectives of the Convention and its Strategies are recognized as a basis for mutually

beneficial collaboration. The GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat will collaborate on substantive matters that the GEF Council and the UNCCD COP decide to pursue in order to strengthen this coherence and enhance collaboration between the GEF and the UNCCD.

3. All terms of this MOU will be interpreted in accordance with (i) GEF Policies and Procedures; and (ii) UNCCD COP Decisions.

Strategies, programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought

4. In formulating strategies, programmes and projects, the GEF will take into account the relevant decisions of the UNCCD COP.

Reporting

5. The GEF will prepare a report to be submitted to each regular session of the UNCCD COP, through the UNCCD Secretariat, on the financing of programmes and projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought.

6. This report will include inter alia:

(a) A synthesis of programmes and projects approved by the GEF Council during the reporting period concerning desertification, land degradation and drought with an indication of the GEF financing and co-financing allocated to such projects;

(b) A listing of programmes and projects approved by the Council concerning desertification, land degradation and drought with an indication of the cumulative financial resources allocated in the GEF to such programmes and projects;

(c) Information on the GEF's experience in integrating activities to promote sustainable land management practices and to achieve land degradation neutrality through the Land Degradation focal area and other focal areas and synergies among the focal areas;

(d) Information on GEF replenishment agreements and the funding programmed under the Land Degradation Focal Area;

(e) Information on GEF monitoring and evaluation activities, including lessons learned, related to projects concerning desertification, land degradation and drought;

(f) Information on financing provided to eligible Parties for enabling activities for the land degradation focal area; and

(g) Implementation of UNCCD COP decisions related to the collaboration with the GEF.

7. The UNCCD will prepare a report for information to be submitted to the GEF Council through the GEF Secretariat after each regular session of the Conference of the Parties, on the decisions taken by the Parties of relevance to the GEF. The report will contain information on discussions within the Conference of the Parties on GEF activities for financing of activities concerning land degradation.

Cooperation between secretariats

8. The GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat will communicate and cooperate with each other and consult on a regular basis on desertification, land degradation and drought issues as they relate to decisions of the GEF Council and the UNCCD COP.

9. The GEF Secretariat and the UNCCD Secretariat will reciprocally consult with each other on (i) proposed strategies, programmes and projects on land degradation; and (ii) draft texts of documents relevant to the GEF and the UNCCD prior to issuing the texts of such documents for consideration by the GEF Council or the UNCCD COP.

Reciprocal representation

10. The UNCCD secretariat will invite the GEF Secretariat to attend meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the GEF secretariat will invite the UNCCD secretariat to attend meetings of the GEF Council and Assembly.

Monitoring and Evaluation

11. The GEF will provide the Conference of the Parties with the reports of the GEF Independent Evaluation Office relevant to GEF activities in the area of land degradation.

Dispute Resolution

12. If differences arise in the interpretation of the present MOU, the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the CEO/Chairman of the GEF will jointly inform the Conference of the Parties and the Council and will invite them to advise on a mutually acceptable solution.

Amendments

13. Amendments to this MOU will be approved by the Conference of the Parties and the Council. Proposed amendments will be submitted jointly, for consideration and approval by the Conference of the Parties and the Council, by the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD and the CEO/Chairman of the GEF.

Termination

14. Either the Conference of the Parties and the Council may terminate this MOU at any time upon written notification to the other. The termination will take effect six months after notification and will not affect the validity or duration of activities initiated before such termination.

15. Notwithstanding Paragraph 14, if there are outstanding activities under this MOU, including GEF Projects under which a GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies entered into commitments with third parties, at the time of termination of this MOU, the terms of this MOU will continue to apply to any such outstanding activities until such activities have been fully completed.

Effectiveness

16. This MOU will come into effect on the date aforementioned on the first page of this MOU, and will replace the MOU between the GEF and the UNCCD, dated 28 October 2005.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, have signed this MOU with effect as indicated in paragraph 16 above.

Decision 12/COP.13

Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 5, 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Recalling decision 12/COP.12,

Taking note of the report of the Global Environment Facility to the thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on the activities of the Global Environment Facility as they relate to sustainable land management for the period of 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017, as contained in document ICCD/CRIC(16)/16,

Also taking note of the evaluation of the Land Degradation Focal Area by the Independent Evaluation Office[1] of the Global Environment Facility and *welcoming* its findings, which confirm the high relevance of the Land Degradation Focal Area with regard to country needs in all regions, especially Africa,

1. *Welcomes* the continued support for the implementation of the Convention, in particular the funding of enabling activities by the Global Environment Facility in the context of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3;

2. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility donors to use the findings and lessons learnt, contained in the report on programming and priorities in the affected regions, to inform the programming directions for the focal area in the Seventh Replenishment phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7);

3. *Encourages* developed country Parties and other Parties to make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility with the aim of achieving robust Seventh Replenishment, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area;

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF-7, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3;

5. *Also invites* the Global Environment Facility, during GEF-7, to continue providing technical and financial support for capacity-building, reporting and voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation;

6. *Further invites* donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and encourages Parties, through the Global Environment Facility and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions during the GEF-7 replenishment process;

7. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

[1] <www.gefieo.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/value-money-ld-2016.pdf>.

8. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 13/COP.13

Additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention – Terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a), (c), (d) and (h), of the Convention,

Also recalling article 23, paragraph 2 (a), (b), and (c), and article 26 of the Convention, as well as decisions 14/COP.12, 14/COP.11, 5/COP.8 and 3/COP.8,

Further recalling decision 11/COP.9 on additional procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist in the review of the implementation of the Convention,

Taking into consideration decision 15/COP.13 that decided on a four-year reporting frequency for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reporting,

Recognizing that regional meetings still play an important role in the review of progress made and make a useful contribution to the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

1. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Committee for the Review of Implementation of the Convention as a standing subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

2. *Also decides* that the Conference of the Parties should, no later than at its nineteenth session, review the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, its operations and its schedule of meetings with a view to making any necessary modifications;

3. *Further decides* to adopt the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention as contained in the annex to this decision;

4. *Decides* that the Conference of the Parties, through its Bureau, is to prepare appropriate modalities, criteria and terms of reference for a midterm evaluation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework with a view to their adoption at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Invites* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so as well as relevant international organizations and financial institutions to provide technical and financial contributions to the review process;

6. *Declares* no longer in force decision 11/COP.9 and all such provisions relating to procedures or institutional mechanisms to assist the Conference of the Parties in regularly reviewing the implementation of the Convention that are inconsistent with those contained in the present decision;

7. *Requests* the secretariat to review the provisions for regional meetings in preparation for meetings of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, as

contained in its biennial costed work programme, and seek financial contributions to enable those regional meetings to occur.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Annex

Terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

I. Mandate and functions

1. Under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and as an integral part of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS), the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) is to assist the COP in the review of the implementation of the Convention and shall facilitate the exchange of information on measures adopted by the Parties pursuant to article 26 of the Convention.

2. In particular, the CRIC is to perform the following functions:

(a) Undertake an assessment of implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework (hereinafter referred to as "assessment of implementation") through the review of information provided by Parties;

(b) Undertake a performance review of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies (hereinafter referred to as "performance review"), following a results-based management approach (RBM) and on the basis of the report on the two-year costed work programme.

3. As part of the functions specified in paragraph 2 above, the CRIC, consistent with the RBM approach, is to, as appropriate:

(a) Consider information on the mobilization and use of financial resources and other support with a view to enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency towards the achievement of the implementation of the Convention, including information from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Global Mechanism;

(b) Recommend methods that improve the communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the COP;

(c) Recommend further steps in the implementation of the Convention.

4. The CRIC is to report regularly to the COP on all aspects of its work, in particular through:

(a) A final report on sessions held between ordinary sessions of the COP containing its recommendations on further steps to be taken to facilitate effective implementation of the Convention;

(b) Draft decisions prepared at sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, where necessary, for consideration and adoption by the COP, containing substantive elements to facilitate the effective implementation of the Convention, showing targets, assigned responsibilities and the expected financial implications of their implementation, as necessary.

II. Composition

5. The CRIC is to be composed of all Parties to the Convention.

6. Any other body or agency, whether national or international, governmental or non-governmental, including civil society organizations and the private sector, which wishes to be represented at a session of the CRIC as an observer may be admitted unless one-third of the Parties present at the session object.

7. The CRIC is to elect its own four Vice-Chairs in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, of whom one is to act as Rapporteur. Together with the Chair, elected by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure, they are to constitute the Bureau of the CRIC.

8. The Chair and the Vice-Chairs of the CRIC are to be elected at the final meeting of the session of the CRIC held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, and are to assume their office immediately.

III. Stakeholders under review

9. Information provided by the following reporting entities is to be reviewed as part of the work programme of the CRIC:

Assessment of implementation

(a) Parties;

(b) The GEF, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP and the Council of the GEF;

Performance review

(c) Convention's institutions and subsidiary bodies (the secretariat, the Global Mechanism, the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the CRIC).

10. Information relating to civil society and the private sector may be supplied by Parties through their reports or obtained through independent studies, as appropriate.

IV. Scope of the review

11. Sessions of the CRIC are to be held during the COP and once between each of the ordinary sessions of the COP.

12. Intersessional sessions of the CRIC are to focus their work on the review of the implementation of the Convention by Parties through, inter alia:

(a) Undertaking an assessment of implementation against progress indicators every four years and against narrative sections within the reporting template every two years;

(b) Reviewing financial flows for the implementation of the Convention;

with a view to submitting to the COP the report referred to in paragraph 4 (a) above.

13. The review of implementation at intersessional sessions of the CRIC is to be based on reports by the reporting entities included in paragraph 9 (a) above and submitted at the same intersessional sessions. In order to review inputs from the private sector, independent studies will be produced for an impact review subject to available resources.

14. The participation of United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations in the discussions of all public intersessional sessions of the CRIC are to be facilitated.

15. At sessions held in conjunction with ordinary sessions of the COP, the CRIC is to assist the COP in:

(a) Reviewing the multi-year workplans of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies;

(b) Reviewing its report adopted at intersessional sessions of the CRIC on the assessment of implementation (progress indicators and/or information from narrative reporting) provided by Parties;

(c) Carrying out a performance review of Convention institutions and subsidiary bodies using an RBM approach;

(d) Reviewing the collaboration with the GEF at any time the COP may decide;

(e) Providing advice on issues as requested by the CST;

with a view to developing draft decisions, where necessary, as referred to in paragraph 4 (b) above.

V. Frequency of sessions

16. Intersessional sessions of the CRIC are to be held once between ordinary meetings of the COP.

17. Intersessional sessions of the CRIC are not to be longer than one week (five working days).

18. Sessions of the CRIC during the COP should not exceed five working days.

19. Extraordinary sessions of the CRIC are to be held at such times as may be decided by the COP.

VI. Organization of work

20. Sessions of the CRIC are to be public, unless the CRIC decides otherwise.

21. The CRIC is to adopt its agenda and organization of work at the beginning of each session.

22. The provisional agenda of the sessions of the CRIC is to be prepared by the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the CRIC.

VII. Nature of the review and methodology

23. The review should be open and transparent, inclusive, flexible and facilitative, as well as effective in terms of the use of financial, technological and human resources, with due regard to geographic regions and subregions. It is to be an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise in an interactive format to identify successes, obstacles and difficulties with a view to improving the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework.

VIII. Transparency of work

24. All the reports and the results of the work of the CRIC are to be in the public domain.

Decision 14/COP.13

Mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 6, 20 and 21 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 14/COP.12, 14/COP11, 5/COP.8 and 3/COP.8,

Noting with concern that globally, desertification/land degradation and drought continue to occur at an alarming rate and that a paradigm shift is needed, and thereby *reaffirming* the urgency to increase financing for the implementation of the Convention,

Acknowledging that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development provides a strong foundation for financing sustainable development and therefore the implementation of the Convention,

Also acknowledging the important role of the Changwon Initiative in strengthening the implementation of the Convention and *welcoming* the Initiative's continued role in the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Recognizing the unique role of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought in affected areas and the importance of these efforts to Parties in addressing Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 at the national and subnational level,

Acknowledging the financing options highlighted by the Global Mechanism in the report "Opportunities for increased financing for the implementation of the Convention and options to track finance in the context of future UNCCD reporting",

Having considered input received through the Intergovernmental Working Group on the future strategic framework of the Convention,

Having also considered the views and suggestions of Parties on financing the implementation of the Convention expressed at the fifteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Recognizing the need expressed by Parties to mobilize additional financial resources for combating desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving voluntary land degradation neutrality targets from multiple sources, such as national budget allocations, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the LDN Fund (once operational), and the private sector,

Noting that Parties' voluntary land degradation neutrality commitments and targets create new opportunities for resource mobilization by facilitating the development of transformative projects and programmes eligible for funding under several sources and mechanisms, including climate finance,

Acknowledging the importance of synergies among the Rio conventions for their effective contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through joint programming,

Also acknowledging the progress made in the establishment of the LDN Fund, spearheaded by the Global Mechanism,

1. *Invites* all Parties to make further efforts towards facilitating increased funding for combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention, including leveraging additional funding from other sources, such as the private sector;

2. *Also invites* developed country Parties and other Parties in a position to do so to seek to provide increased financial resources and other means for supporting developing countries and other affected countries in combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality, and advancing the implementation of the Convention;

3. *Further invites* multilateral development banks, international development finance institutions, bilateral development organizations, the Global Environment Facility, climate finance institutions including the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, the LDN Fund, as well as non-governmental funding facilities, including foundations and private sector entities, to:

(a) Scale up financing for activities related to combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention, taking into consideration the multiple benefits of these investments and their contribution to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to climate change;

(b) Consider the introduction of land degradation neutrality within their investment frameworks and criteria in order to increase the impact of their investments;

4. *Encourages* affected country Parties that formulate voluntary national land degradation neutrality targets to:

(a) Increase efforts towards accessing available resources and financing opportunities, including climate finance, for combating desertification/land degradation and drought, achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention;

(b) Make land degradation neutrality investments a priority for engagement with providers of concessional finance, including the International Development Association, given that resilience has become an overarching theme for its financing, taking into consideration the multiple benefits of such investments;

(c) Develop transformative projects and programmes to achieve national voluntary land degradation neutrality targets and advance the implementation of the Convention in an effort to move from pilot projects and the proliferation of small projects to increasing scale and impact;

(d) Increase efforts to further improve the investment climate and increase coherence among commitments, policies, institutions and investments contributing to achieving land degradation neutrality and advancing the implementation of the Convention;

5. In order to combat desertification/land degradation and drought, achieve land degradation neutrality and advance the implementation of the Convention, *requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to:

(a) Continue to explore and develop innovative financing mechanisms and funding options, including for technical assistance in support of the preparation of transformative projects and programmes;

(b) Scale up Global Mechanism support to Parties in their efforts to develop and implement transformative projects and programmes in collaboration with international partners;

(c) Step up support, in collaboration with multilateral development banks, international development finance institutions, and climate finance institutions, including the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, for the resource mobilization efforts of developing countries for financing;

6. *Further requests* the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on progress made in implementing this decision.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 15/COP.13

Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 26 and article 23, paragraph 2, of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Considering that the reporting process is an extensive and time-consuming process involving many institutions and stakeholders at national level,

Recalling decisions 7/COP.12, 15/COP.12 and 7/COP.13,

1. *Requests* further guidance from and the continuation of capacity-building measures by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat and other relevant bodies, institutions and organizations that aim at assisting Parties in efficiently using the work of different institutions directly or indirectly involved in providing data for the forthcoming reporting period at national level, including guidance and capacity-building measures on approaches available to establish monitoring systems for reporting to the UNCCD through the Global Support Programme;

2. *Also requests* the secretariat to consider further simplifying the reporting templates and other reporting tools for future reporting processes, including making the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) platform more user friendly;

3. *Decides* to approve a four-year frequency for UNCCD reporting for countries to provide information on the strategic objectives and the implementation framework of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to provide the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention with a summary or synthesis of qualitative information submitted by Parties with a view to enabling the Bureau to select topics and/or themes of general interest for the purpose mentioned in paragraph 5 below;

5. *Invites* the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to include in its work programme the selection of topics or themes for interactive sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention which will be based on the qualitative information submitted by Parties on the implementation framework of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

6. *Requests* the Bureau of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention to include on the agenda of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, with the assistance of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, where appropriate, opportunities for development partners to share their experiences in implementing the Convention and/or providing support for implementation;

7. *Also requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism and *invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to coordinate their respective support at the global, regional and national level through the Global Support Programme II and umbrella projects in order to provide targeted and timely support to capacity-building for reporting;

8. *Considers* the need for a specific indicator for the strategic objective on drought contained in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework and *requests* the Committee on Science and Technology to assist in the work relating to the establishment of such a monitoring framework;

9. *Requests* the secretariat, as the custodian agency for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.3.1, to use the information submitted to it by Parties in their national reports that is relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and to continue to cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies and capacity building approaches for reporting on the relevant indicators;

10. *Considers* the proposed approach and timeline for forthcoming reporting on progress under the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

11. *Requests* the Convention institutions to finalize all necessary reporting tools for the forthcoming reporting process starting in November 2017.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 16/COP.13

Programme of work for the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of the Convention,

Also recalling article 23, paragraph 2 (a)–(c) and article 26 of the Convention,

Further recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex, containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Highlighting the importance of allocating sufficient time for implementation review discussions among Parties at intersessional sessions of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Also highlighting the importance of engaging development partners, such as United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and other groups, as appropriate, in the interactive sessions of the intersessional session,

Recognizing that regional meetings play an important role in reviewing progress and make a useful contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

1. *Decides* to include the following items in the agenda of the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention for the Parties to review and discuss:

(a) Inputs from regional meetings in preparation for the seventeenth session of the Committee;

(b) Implementation using the progress indicators contained in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

(c) Implementation of voluntary land degradation neutrality targets;

(d) Implementation framework of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

(e) Financial flows for the implementation of the Convention;

(f) Procedures for communication of information, as well as the quality and formats of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties;

(g) Default data and the proposed methodology to formulate national voluntary land degradation neutrality targets;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate in all United Nations languages, at least six weeks prior to the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention, a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the items contained in paragraph 1 above, as well as any additional items necessitated by decisions adopted by the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 17/COP.13

Date and venue of the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 2 (a) and (c) of the Convention,

Also recalling decision 13/COP.13 and its annex containing the terms of reference of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention,

Further recalling decisions 2/COP.12, 15/COP.12 and 15/COP.13,

1. *Decides*, subject to the availability of resources, that the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention should be held in the second half of 2018 at the most cost-effective venue of either Bonn, Germany – the site of the Convention secretariat – or any other venue with United Nations conference facilities in the event that no Party makes an offer to host the session and meet the additional financial costs;

2. *Invites* the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to accommodate any offer from a Party to host the seventeenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to take the necessary measures to prepare for that session, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with a host country/government.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 18/COP.13

Follow-up on the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2016–2017

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 23/COP.11, 19/COP.12 and 21/COP.12,

Acknowledging the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing the work programme for the biennium 2016–2017,

Also acknowledging that the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality summarized in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2 provides scientifically-based guidance for planning, implementing and monitoring land degradation neutrality,

Recognizing that sustainable land management can contribute significantly to addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation and to achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals,

Also recognizing that the assessment report of the Science-Policy Interface contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3 offers countries generic scientific guidance for developing sustainable land management strategies that optimize the synergies and trade-offs available through sustainable land management, and for determining the most effective means for the selection and large-scale implementation of region-specific sustainable land management practices,

Welcoming the work done by the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme on land restoration, ecosystem resilience and their contributions to poverty eradication,

Having considered documents ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2, ICCD/COP(13)/CST/3 and ICCD/COP(13)/CST/4,

The scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality

1. *Endorses* the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality summarized in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2 and *encourages* further conceptual elaboration and practical verification;

2. *Calls upon* Parties pursuing land degradation neutrality to consider the guidance provided by the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality and observe the principles summarised in document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/2, taking into account national circumstances;

3. *Invites* Parties to identify case studies on land degradation neutrality implementation and *requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Mechanism, to collect these case studies and prepare a synthesis for presentation to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

4. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to analyse the land degradation neutrality implementation experience based on the case study synthesis, and report on lessons learned, including refined guidance for implementation and monitoring of land degradation neutrality, building upon the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality, as part of its future work programmes;

Sustainable land management for addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation

5. *Welcomes* the scientific assessment of synergies and trade-offs brought about by sustainable land management in addressing desertification/land degradation and drought, climate change mitigation and adaptation, indicating that the assessment reflects the present level of common understanding, and *encourages* further development and practical verification;

6. *Invites* Parties to consider the use of locally adapted sustainable land management practices as an effective means of achieving land-based national objectives related to addressing (i) desertification/land degradation and drought and achieving land degradation neutrality; and (ii) climate change mitigation and adaptation, taking into consideration possible synergistic national actions related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

7. *Calls upon* Parties to develop and promote policy instruments that help to overcome technological, institutional, economic and sociocultural barriers to the large-scale implementation of local sustainable land management practices by creating an enabling environment at national and subnational levels based on: (i) mainstreaming sustainable land management practices into national integrated land-use planning strategies; (ii) supporting the implementation of sustainable land management as one of the means to achieve land degradation neutrality; (iii) developing and supporting economic incentives for the implementation of sustainable land management; (iv) improving land tenure security in ways that incentivize land users to invest in sustainable land management; and (v) supporting capacity-building on sustainable land management practices at all relevant levels of decision-making;

8. *Invites* Parties to institutionalize meaningful stakeholder engagement throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of sustainable land management strategies in order to facilitate the use of scientific and local knowledge, optimize knowledge exchange and discussion between land users, policymakers, scientists, civil society organizations and other stakeholders, and increase chance that effective local sustainable land management solutions are embraced at the required scale and implemented locally;

9. *Invites* Parties to initiate and support the development of transdisciplinary research programmes aimed at: (i) performing multi-objective assessments, including synergies and trade-offs for the natural environment and human well-being; (ii) identifying barriers and enabling conditions for the implementation of sustainable land management practices; and (iii) building on participatory research methods;

10. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to continue working on the assessment to provide science-based evidence on the contribution of sustainable land management to enhancing the livelihoods and socioeconomic conditions of people affected by desertification/land degradation and drought as part of its work programme for 2018–2019;

Rehabilitation, restoration and reclamation measures and practices in degraded lands

11. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to further develop cooperation with the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme on preparing a report on land restoration and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3, and to also explore additional opportunities for cooperation that supports the needs of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 19/COP.13

Improving the efficiency of the Science-Policy Interface

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 23/COP.11 on the establishment of the Science-Policy Interface, particularly paragraph 2, which specifies that the Science-Policy Interface will function up to the end of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, at which point it will be reviewed,

Also recalling its decisions 19/COP.12 and 23/COP.12,

Noting with appreciation the good performance of the Science-Policy Interface in implementing its 2016–2017 work programme and the significant progress made by the Science-Policy Interface towards achieving the objectives that were set for it,

Taking into consideration the findings and recommendations from the external assessment of the Science-Policy Interface,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/6,

1. *Decides* to continue the Science-Policy Interface and to extend its current mandate, as defined in decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12, up to the end of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (2023), at which time another review of the Science-Policy Interface will be presented;

2. *Also decides* to renew Science-Policy Interface membership using a rotating system to ensure the continuity of the work of the Science-Policy Interface and *requests* the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology, with the assistance of the secretariat, to define the process for the staged renewal of Science-Policy Interface membership and revise the Science-Policy Interface terms of reference and selection criteria accordingly;

3. *Further decides* that, for the biennium 2018–2019, the membership of no more than eight current Science-Policy Interface members shall be exceptionally extended by two years so as to benefit from the advantages of a rotating membership renewal system;

4. *Also decides* to add two more observer seats to the composition of the Science-Policy Interface;

5. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to submit through the secretariat a proposal for its work programme for consideration at each regular Committee on Science and Technology session, with a focus on one or two broad, globally relevant priority topics related to desertification/land degradation and drought;

6. *Also requests* the Science-Policy Interface, in close collaboration with the secretariat, to continue to contribute to and cooperate with other international scientific panels and bodies dealing with desertification/land degradation and drought issues, in particular the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils, and the International Resource Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme, and *further requests* the secretariat to clarify the potential benefits, costs, conditions and procedures for establishing more formal relationships between the Science-Policy Interface and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Intergovernmental Technical Panel

on Soils and International Resource Panel in order to develop synergies and avoid duplication of efforts;

7. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface to continue fostering partnerships with scientific bodies and institutions, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders and to invite the representatives of these entities to its meetings as external observers when feasible, with a view to strengthening substantive exchanges and collaboration;

8. *Invites* the Committee on Science and Technology and current and past Science-Policy Interface members to increase awareness of the work of the Science-Policy Interface;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to facilitate communication between the Science-Policy Interface and the science and technology correspondents of Parties;

10. *Also requests* the secretariat to continue to mobilize resources for the effective functioning of the Science-Policy Interface;

11. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Parties and others in a position to do so to provide technical and financial support for the activities of the Science-Policy Interface.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 20/COP.13

Promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 15/COP.10 and 20/COP.12,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the secretariat on the development of the Scientific Knowledge Brokering Portal, which is now embedded in the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and the improvements to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) knowledge-sharing services, integrating various knowledge tools under one platform,

Acknowledging the efforts by the secretariat and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) in promoting the analysis, dissemination and accessibility of best practices in sustainable land management,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/8,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to continue the expansion and further enhancement of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, facilitating UNCCD stakeholders in sharing success stories, lessons learned and best practices related to their implementation activities, and providing access to knowledge sources of partners in order to facilitate the dissemination of relevant knowledge to all stakeholders;

2. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other stakeholders to continue to share information on knowledge-sharing systems and other relevant information on desertification/land degradation and drought and sustainable land management through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to clearly identify the different sources of information and the different categories in the UNCCD Knowledge Hub;

4. *Invites* experts nominated by country Parties to continue to ensure the information in their respective profile on the UNCCD Knowledge Hub is up-to-date by, inter alia, adding links to recent relevant publications and websites;

5. *Encourages* Parties and *invites* other stakeholders to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices in order to increase the knowledge base on sustainable land management;

6. *Invites* Parties and financial institutions to support the maintenance, expansion, and further enhancement and development of the UNCCD Knowledge Hub.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 21/COP.13

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 23/COP.11 and 19/COP.12,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(13)/CST/7,

1. *Adopts* the Science-Policy Interface work programme for the biennium 2018–2019, as contained in the annex to this decision, and *decides* on priorities;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 1.1 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019, at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and technology;

(b) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 1.2 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019, at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and technology;

(c) Present a synthesis report, including policy-oriented recommendations on objective 2 included in the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019, at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and technology;

(d) Report on the coordination activities conducted by the Science-Policy Interface during the biennium 2018–2019 to the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and technology.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Annex

Work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019

Table 1
Objectives and deliverables of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019

Objective	Deliverable
1. Provide refined guidance for implementation of land degradation neutrality (LDN)	
1.1 Provide advice on the design and implementation of LDN-related policies and initiatives that bring about multiple environmental and development benefits and synergies with other Rio conventions, in particular for climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.	Guidelines on how to identify and design scientifically sound and practical LDN-related policies and initiatives. Provision of scientific assistance to the Global Mechanism in supporting LDN-related policies and initiatives.
1.2 Provide science-based evidence on the potential contribution of LDN to enhancing the well-being and livelihoods as well as the environmental conditions of people affected by desertification/land degradation and drought.	Report providing science-based evidence of how land-based interventions can improve the well-being and livelihoods of people while simultaneously enhancing the state of the environment.
2. Based on a review of existing synthesis reports and, if necessary, referring to primary literature, provide guidance to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation.	Science-policy brief and, if necessary, a report highlighting the potential of appropriate land-based interventions to mitigate the effects of drought by increasing the resilience of ecosystems and the socio-economic well-being of populations.

Table 2
Coordination activities of the Science-Policy Interface work programme 2018–2019

Main Activity	Sub-activities
1. Follow up on the land degradation and restoration assessment (LDRA) conducted by the Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), and review the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its associated summary for policymakers if this report is available in time for the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) to complete the review.	The SPI will review the LDRA and analyse its key messages relevant for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for presentation at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST 14). The SPI will also review the key messages of the IPBES Global Assessment relevant for the UNCCD regarding options to protect and use biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as the benefits they provide for people, for presentation at the CST 14.
2. Strengthen cooperation with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) within the framework of its agenda, particularly regarding its special report on climate change and land (SRCCL) and its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6).	In accordance with the procedures established by the IPCC, the SPI will contribute to the SRCCL and the AR6.
3. Follow up on current cooperation and explore future means and topics for cooperation with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).	The SPI will cooperate with the ITPS on topics to be jointly agreed by the SPI and the ITPS, bearing in mind the importance of soil organic carbon to land degradation neutrality (LDN). The SPI should be involved in any follow-up activities emerging from the conclusions of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon, including the organization of a possible second meeting in cooperation with IPCC and other organizations.
4. Cooperate with the International Resources Panel of the United Nations Environment Programme on preparing a report on land restoration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	The SPI will contribute to the preparation and review of the report. Based on this report, the SPI will outline policy-oriented options on how land restoration contributes to LDN in the context of DLDD and the SDGs.
5. Contribute to the possible development of a second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO 2) and other UNCCD science-based communications, as appropriate.	The SPI will participate in the steering committee, development and review process for a possible GLO 2 and will be invited to contribute to the review and, as appropriate, to the development of other UNCCD science-based communications.
6. Cooperate with the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII) of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to ensure the harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII to measure tenure security, with land indicators used for measuring progress towards LDN.	The SPI may provide input to the GLII to ensure the harmonization of land indicators developed by the GLII with land indicators used by the UNCCD on the basis of existing data sources and standards that are globally collectible and comparable.

Decision 22/COP.13

Cooperation with other intergovernmental scientific panels and bodies

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 23/COP.11 and 21/COP.12,

Noting with appreciation the work conducted by the Science-Policy Interface in implementing the coordination activities included in its work programme for the biennium 2016-2017,

Welcoming the progress made by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on the preparation of the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment,

Recognizing the contribution of the Science-Policy Interface to the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment,

Welcoming the initiative undertaken jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Science-Policy Interface, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils of the Global Soil Partnership, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Meteorological Organization to organize the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon to review the role of soil and soil organic carbon management in the context of climate change, sustainable development and land degradation neutrality,

Recognizing the contribution of the Science-Policy Interface, with the support of the secretariat, to the scoping process for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems,

Acknowledging the role played by the Science-Policy Interface in the development of the first edition of the Global Land Outlook,

Having considered documents ICCD/COP(13)/CST/5 and ICCD/COP(13)/CST/INF.3,

1. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface to review the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment, analyse its key messages relevant to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and present an analysis at the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

2. *Also requests* the Science-Policy Interface to contribute to the preparation and review of the special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems and the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in a timely manner and in accordance with the procedure established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

3. *Encourages* the Science-Policy Interface to continue its cooperation with the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils by following up on any UNCCD-relevant activities emerging from the conclusions of the Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon, considering the pivotal role of soil organic carbon in land degradation neutrality;

4. *Requests* the secretariat to notify Parties, the Science-Policy Interface and experts included on the UNCCD roster of independent experts of the call for expert reviewers for the special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems;

5. *Also requests* the secretariat to facilitate the participation of (i) the UNCCD representatives in the sessions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change dealing with the special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems and the Sixth Assessment Report; and (ii) the Chair of the Committee on Science and Technology in the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services as an observer;

6. *Further requests* the secretariat to facilitate the involvement of the Science-Policy Interface in steering, developing and reviewing the second edition of the Global Land Outlook.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 23/COP.13

Programme of work for the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling articles 23 and 24 of the Convention,

Recalling decisions 13/COP.8 and 21/COP.11 on reshaping the operation of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Also recalling decision 19/COP.12 on improving the efficiency of the Committee on Science and Technology,

Bearing in mind the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, in particular the implementation framework for the Committee on Science and Technology,

Having reviewed the proposed work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019, as contained in the annex of decision 21/COP.13,

1. *Decides* that the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should focus, inter alia, on the objectives and coordination activities identified in the work programme of the Science-Policy Interface for the biennium 2018–2019;

2. *Also decides* that the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology should be organized in such a way as to facilitate a thematic dialogue between the Parties and the Science-Policy Interface regarding the policy implications of the scientific outputs, and to enable the formulation of policy-relevant recommendations;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate a provisional annotated agenda and appropriate documentation for that session in all six official languages of the United Nations, at least six weeks prior to the fourteenth session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 24/COP.13

Designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolutions 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and 56/196 of 21 December 2001 on institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariat of the Convention, which endorse decision 3/COP.1 on the designation of a Convention secretariat and arrangements for its functioning,

Approves the continuation for a further five-year period of the current institutional linkage and related administrative arrangements, to be reviewed by both the General Assembly and the Conference of the Parties no later than 31 December 2023.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 25/COP.13

Credentials of delegations

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered document ICCD/COP(13)/20 on the credentials of delegations and the recommendation contained therein,

Decides to approve the report.

9th plenary meeting
14 September 2017

Decision 26/COP.13

Special segment

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the summary reports on the parallel ministerial/high-level round tables, submitted by:

His Excellency Sydney Alexander Samuels Milson, Minister of Environment and Natural Resource of Guatemala – Chair of Round table 1: Land degradation: a challenge to development, prosperity and peace,

His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al -Sabah, Chairman of the Board- General Director of the General Authority for the Environment of Kuwait – Chair of Round table 2: Drought and sand and dust storms: early warning and beyond,

Her Excellency Ndahimananjara Bénédicte Johanita, Minister of Environment, Ecology, and Forestry, Republic of Madagascar – Chair of Round table 3: Land degradation neutrality: "From targets to action…what will it take?,

1. *Takes note* of the Chairpersons' summaries with appreciation and gratitude;

2. *Decides* to include the Chairpersons' summaries as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 27/COP.13

The Ordos Declaration

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the Ordos Declaration with appreciation;

2. *Decides* to include the Ordos Declaration as an annex to this decision.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Annex

The Ordos Declaration

We, the Ministers and high-level representatives, gathered for the high-level segment at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held on the 11–12 September 2017 in Ordos at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China,

Expressing our sincere appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its hospitality and to the secretariat of the UNCCD for the organization of the high-level session,

Welcoming the commitment of the Government of the People's Republic of China to work jointly with Parties to combat desertification, drought and sand and dust storms, especially in Asia and Africa, and to provide support to the "Belt and Road Cooperative Mechanism for Combating Desertification", a multi stakeholder partnership that promotes sustainable development and a green economy for land degradation neutrality in the region and beyond through sharing of experience, capacity building and demonstration projects,

Confirming that desertification/land degradation and drought are major environmental, economic and social challenges for global sustainable development in particular for poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration,

Recalling that poverty is a global challenge and that there is a vicious cycle of poverty and desertification/land degradation and drought affecting, in particular, rural people and local communities,

Recognizing the need to ensure the sustainable provision of ecosystem functions and services for food security and sustainable development,

Deeply concerned about the impact of desertification/land degradation and drought on the most vulnerable people (including youth, children and the elderly; indigenous peoples and local communities; persons with disabilities; poor farmers and migrants) depending on national circumstances,

Noting The Windhoek Declaration for Enhancing Resilience to Drought in Africa and *considering* that drought is a complex, natural hazard negatively affecting the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable and requiring effective and enhanced drought risk preparedness and resilience at all levels,

Considering sand and dust storms, and the resulting loss of fertile soil, as an emerging, cross-sectoral, transboundary challenge that is exacerbated by unsustainable land management and water use that can aggravate existing environmental challenges,

Recognizing that climate change is a serious global threat that should be taken into account for the implementation of the UNCCD,

Recognizing the importance of the land, water and forestry sector in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and *noting* that the preamble to the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, recognizes the importance of the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases,

Emphasizing the important role of combating desertification/land degradation and drought in achieving other related Sustainable Development Goals (such as those related to poverty, food security, environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources) and for reducing risks and vulnerabilities to natural hazards,

Reaffirming our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 to strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world,

Reaffirming also the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development that is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2011–2020,

Welcoming the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2017, which contributes to preventing desertification,

Noting the Durban Declaration on the 2050 Vision for Forests and Forestry, adopted at the fourteenth World Forestry Congress in September 2015

Further noting the *G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted at the G20 Hangzhou Summit in September 2016,

Reiterating our strong commitment to the effective implementation of the UNCCD,

Welcoming the work done to formulate a 2018–2030 Strategic Framework of the UNCCD as a solid basis for our future prosperity and resilience,

Welcoming national efforts to set voluntary targets to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030,

Reaffirming the importance of government leadership, multi-stakeholder partnerships and increasing private engagement for the sustainable management, restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, biodiversity and land,

Acknowledging the importance of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, sound policies and incentives, good governance and the rule of law to improving land governance for sustainable land management and access to ownership and control over land, and *encouraging* countries to give due consideration to the dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security,

Welcoming the ongoing efforts towards transformation of current production and consumption patterns in order to become more resource-efficient, socially inclusive, environmental friendly and environmentally sustainable,

Recognizing the value of knowledge, education, science and new technology to sustainable development and good land management, including making use of, inter alia, the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *emphasizing* the importance of science-based decision-making and that therefore science and technology to combat desertification/land degradation and drought should be further promoted, and *welcoming* the organization of the Technology Fair at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD,

Convinced that sustainable land management practices that rehabilitate and restore the land have long-term positive impacts for the society and *further convinced* that diverse multi-stakeholder participation from all sectors of society (in particular civil society organizations,

philanthropic organizations, the private sector, scientific community, municipalities, women, indigenous peoples and local communities and youth) will be crucial to secure these benefits and achieve the objectives of the Convention,

Stressing the importance of the involvement of civil society organizations in the implementation of the Convention and its 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Highlighting the importance of full and effective participation of both men and women in decision-making at all levels and *reaffirming* our commitment to achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls,

Acknowledging the call, championed by civil society, for better access, control and stewardship over land, including strengthening tenure security, access and user rights for women and men, in particular the poor and vulnerable, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, as a critical element of sustainable development,

Noting the efforts of Parties to support communities in affected areas and to offer decent employment opportunities to vulnerable individuals, leading to greater resilience and prosperity, by rehabilitating degraded land,

1. *Welcome* the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

2. *Commit to facilitate*, for Parties that wish to do so, the voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting process, and to *provide* sufficient support to national efforts to turn defined land degradation neutrality targets into effective projects and equitable action;

3. *Encourage* those Parties that have not yet done so to consider using voluntary land degradation neutrality targets as an effective tool to drive UNCCD implementation at the national level;

4. *Invite* all stakeholders in a position to do so to facilitate scientific and technical support for Parties that wish to implement and follow-up on their voluntary land degradation neutrality target at national and local levels, with a particular focus on strengthening the technical capacities of the most affected countries, taking advantage of the guidance offered by the Committee on Science and Technology and Science-Policy Interface;

5. *Pledge* to further integrate sustainable land management objectives and practices into relevant policies, plans and investments in order to contribute to achieving land degradation neutrality;

6. *Welcome* the progress made in mobilizing public and private sector resources, including the establishment of the LDN Fund, and *invite* the private sector and other stakeholders to step up investments to achieve land degradation neutrality at national level;

7. *Encourage* the public and private sector to continue to invest in developing technologies, methods and tools to combat desertification/land degradation and drought in different regions, and to boost knowledge exchange (including of traditional knowledge, with the consent of the knowledge holders), capacity building and sharing of technologies;

8. *Emphasize* the need to enhance cooperation with relevant international or regional financial institutions, the private sector and international organizations, develop national capacities on the ground and increase synergies, as appropriate, with the other Rio conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements and processes;

9. *Aim*, as appropriate, to further mobilize resources at all levels and to strengthen funding mechanisms and opportunities to support UNCCD implementation, diversify funding channels in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

10. *Prioritize*, as appropriate, those initiatives which benefit the most vulnerable and which seek to empower those who have the least capacity to cope with the consequences of desertification/land degradation and drought;

11. *Encourage* innovative national and regional initiatives that create decent land-based jobs and offer employment opportunities for vulnerable individuals, rehabilitating degraded land in areas affected by desertification/land degradation and drought and its social and economic impacts, and *take note* of initiatives such as The Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel, the 3S Initiative and The Green Dam/Barrage Vert;

12. *Recognize* the positive steps taken to promote women's and girls' empowerment and *pledge* to address the gender inequalities which undermine progress in the implementation of the Convention by pursuing the full and effective participation of both men and women in planning, decision-making and gender-responsive implementation of the Convention at all levels;

13. *Promote* approaches which bring together government, private sector and local communities to provide economic and ecosystem services that can be shared by business and local farmers who have previously been affected by land degradation and poverty, for example "green desert economies" demonstrated in Kubuqi Desert, Ordos;

14. *Invite* local governments, in particular, to collaborate to create inclusive and sustainable cities using sustainable land management approaches and integrated land use planning;

15. *Urge* a proactive approach to enhance cooperation and coordination at global, regional and sub regional levels to address the causes and impacts of drought and Sand and Dust Storms including through the promotion of sustainable water use and land management, to reduce future risks and the impact of drought and sand and dust storms, while promoting and supporting initiatives to streamline comprehensive drought preparedness, including through monitoring and assessment systems in conjunction with measures that reduce the risk and boost the resilience of climate change-affected and vulnerable communities and ecosystems;

16. *Promote* the prevention of desertification and further degradation with an integrated landscape approach, including the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded land and sustainable land management.

Decision 28/COP.13

The positive role that measures taken under the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the provisions in the Convention and its annexes, where relevant, as they pertain to migration,

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/229 adopted on 21 December 2016,

Acknowledging that the preamble to the Paris Agreement states that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on the rights of migrants, and that United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49, requests the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage to establish a task force to develop recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change,

Noting the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 19 September 2016,

Reiterating that the implementation of the Convention contributes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling that the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework recognizes that desertification/land degradation and drought are challenges of global dimension and contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems such as poverty, poor health, lack of food security, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration,

1. *Invites* Parties, as appropriate, to:

(a) Promote the positive role that measures taken to implement the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration;

(b) Enhance international cooperation that aims to promote the positive role sustainable land management can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration;

2. *Requests* the secretariat to:

(a) Support Parties upon request in implementing the actions mentioned in paragraph 1 above;

(b) Commission, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources, a study on the role that measures taken to implement the Convention can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration so as to promote the objectives of the Convention;

(c) Support regional and international cooperation and initiatives that aim to promote the positive role sustainable land management can play to address desertification/land degradation and drought as one of the drivers that causes migration;

(d) Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, regional and international organizations, and stakeholders to share information on the linkages between desertification/land degradation and drought and migration;

(e) Present for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session a report on the progress made in implementing this decision.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 29/COP.13

Policy advocacy on drought

The Conference of the Parties

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/218 on the international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, and resolution 70/204 on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Also recalling decision 36/COP.11, which took note of the Namib Declaration with appreciation,

Further recalling decision 9/COP.12, which requests the secretariat to continue improving partnerships fostering capacity development for national drought preparedness planning, drought early warning, risk and vulnerability assessments, and enhanced drought risk mitigation,

Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

Highlighting the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration to develop and implement national drought plans that can be implemented at local level to build societal resilience to the impacts of drought while also enhancing land rehabilitation to bring about sustainable land management, reducing biodiversity loss and enhancing the provision of ecosystem services and functions,

Welcoming the inclusion of a new strategic objective on drought in the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, to be implemented through national action programmes and other means,

Recognizing that drought resilience is an important element in the implementation of the Convention, as well as Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3 on land degradation neutrality,

Noting the adoption of a common strategic framework for Drought Resilient and Prepared Africa by African countries, which calls for national action and collaboration on drought policy and governance, drought early warning systems, vulnerability and impact assessment, and drought risk mitigation measures,

Also noting the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration (2016) by the African countries and the Santa Cruz Declaration (2017) by the Latin American and Caribbean countries at their regional conferences on drought,

Recognizing that the increasing threats and adverse impacts of drought, as well as the regional and international developments on drought, will necessitate an up-to-date drought policy framework to enhance drought preparedness at all levels,

Underscoring the need for comprehensive drought measures through preparedness and early warning systems that go beyond meteorology and forecasts, including the capacity to predict drought, the analysis of drought risks, the communication of alerts to authorities, media and vulnerable communities, and response to drought warnings,

Stressing the need to strengthen institutional mechanisms for engaging Parties and relevant stakeholders in the dissemination of scientific, practical, traditional and local knowledge, and through the exchange of experiences on drought preparedness, as well as diagnosing potential areas for action, constraints, and responses,

Cognizant of the need for countries to develop and implement national drought management policies, as appropriate, to meet national circumstances and priorities,

Taking note of the various existing initiatives at all levels in relation to drought, including the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture initiative and the UN-Water initiative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat, World Meteorological Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Convention on Biological Diversity and UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development in building capacities to support countries to develop and implement national drought management policies, and *emphasizing* the need to ensure coherence, coordination, and complementarity,

1. *Invites* the Parties to:

(a) Use, as appropriate, the Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy framework[1] in order to strengthen their capacity to enhance drought preparedness and provide an appropriate response to drought;

(b) Pursue a proactive approach on integrated drought management in the process of developing national drought policies based on the three key pillars of national drought policy: (i) implementing comprehensive drought monitoring and early warning systems; (ii) completing vulnerability and impact assessments for sectors, populations and regions vulnerable to drought; and (iii) implementing drought preparedness and risk mitigation measures;

(c) Develop a comprehensive system on drought preparedness that embraces the following: (i) analysing drought risk; (ii) monitoring the location and intensity of an upcoming drought; (iii) communicating alerts to authorities, media and vulnerable communities; and (iv) responding to drought warnings;

(d) Promote drought resilience building which is gender-responsive and which prioritizes people in vulnerable situations;

(e) Consider utilizing the Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture initiative as a knowledge-sharing partnership to help countries develop their drought preparedness plans;

2. *Also invites* all Parties, multilateral and bilateral partners, and international financing mechanisms to scale up and facilitate effective financing for the implementation of drought mitigation measures at all levels;

3. *Requests* the Science-Policy Interface, as contained in decision 21/COP.13, as part of its work programme for the biennium 2018–2019, to provide technical guidance to Parties in order to support the adoption and implementation of land-based interventions for drought management and mitigation;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies, including the Science Policy Interface, within their respective mandates to:

(a) Implement the drought initiative for the biennium 2018–2019 which proposes action on: (i) drought preparedness systems; (ii) regional efforts to reduce drought vulnerability and risk; and (iii) a toolbox to boost the resilience of people and ecosystems to drought;

(b) Support countries to develop and implement national drought management policies, as well as the establishment and strengthening of comprehensive drought monitoring, preparedness and early warning systems;

[1] See document ICCD/COP(13)/19.

(c) Take a leading role at the institutional level through the strengthening of existing strategic partnerships and the establishment of new strategic partnerships on drought preparedness with relevant stakeholders at all levels, including United Nations agencies, inter alia, the World Meteorological Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, development partners, public and private sectors, land users and civil society, with a view to ensuring coherence, coordination and complementarity;

(d) Develop and finalize the technical guidelines to assist Parties in the implementation of the Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy framework;

(e) Assist Parties, as appropriate, in using the Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy framework;

(f) Increase awareness on drought issues, including through capacity building, to develop national drought management policies based on the principles of risk reduction;

(g) Promote North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, including the transfer of appropriate technology and up-to-date methodologies necessary for developing and improving drought monitoring, seasonal forecasts, preparedness and early warning and information delivery systems;

5. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a report for the next Conference of the Parties on the need, if any, for additional arrangements on drought;

6. *Also requests* the secretariat to include on the provisional agenda of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, under the item entitled "Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level", a sub-item entitled "Drought";

7. *Further requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth session on the implementation of this decision.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 30/COP.13

Gender equality and women's empowerment for the enhanced and effective implementation of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework,

Recalling decision 7/COP.12,

Also recalling the importance that the Convention places on the role of women in the implementation of the Convention and the actions taken by Parties to support the participation of women,

Further recalling the actions of the secretariat, at the request of Parties, to promote gender in the implementation of the Convention through its policy-advocacy framework (decision 9/COP.10) and to mainstream gender issues at various levels involving multiple stakeholders (decision 9/COP.11),

Acknowledging that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable, will make an important contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention, including the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework, and to the achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including target 15.3,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework requires enhanced action to support women's effective participation in the implementation of the Convention, including in achieving land degradation neutrality,

Acknowledging that mainstreaming gender in the implementation of the Convention, including through voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting and implementation, decision-making and stakeholder engagement, will strengthen the effective and efficient implementation of action on the ground,

Emphasizing that the benefits gained from building and strengthening women's and girls' capacities, capabilities and awareness in order to enhance their participation at all levels, and addressing women's rights and access to, inter alia, economic and natural resources, ownership and control of land and other forms of property may foster more effective and efficient implementation of the Convention and enhance synergies and partnerships with other stakeholders,

1. *Adopts* the Gender Action Plan[1] to support gender-responsive implementation of the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework to strengthen the implementation of the advocacy policy framework on gender;

2. *Requests* Parties and other stakeholders to further mainstream gender equality and empowerment of women and girls into desertification/land degradation and drought-related policies and activities, as appropriate, to implement the Convention and the UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework;

[1] Contained in document ICCD/COP(13)/19.

3. *Invites* parties and other stakeholders to use the Gender Action Plan and, based on lessons learned during the next biennium, to contribute to its refinement;

4. *Requests* the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to partner with the Rio conventions, UN Women and other relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and development partners to roll out the action plan and to support Parties in piloting the action plan and in enhancing synergies and promoting women's and girls' empowerment in the implementation of the Convention;

5. *Also requests* the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) secretariat to:

(a) Subject to the availability of resources, facilitate consultations among Parties, UNCCD institutions and bodies, United Nations entities and other stakeholders, including civil society, prior to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, on the effectiveness of the Gender Action Plan based on the piloting experiences;

(b) Report on the findings of their consultations to Parties and recommend possible amendments to the Gender Action Plan for Parties' consideration at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties with view to further improving the action plan and its implementation;

(c) Report on the implementation of this decision at the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 31/COP.13

Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision 9/COP.12, decision 3/COP.12, decision 8/COP.9 and decision 9/COP.11,

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/195 entitled "Combating sand and dust storms" from 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21 on sand and dust storms and United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/219 entitled "Combating sand and dust storms",

Taking note of the Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms produced by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),

Noting that sand and dust storms are a challenge with impacts on, among others, infrastructure, transport, communication, agriculture, ecosystems and human health and transboundary impacts that require institutional, technical and scientific responses, and that the global frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms have increased in the last decade and pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries,

Emphasizing that consolidated and coordinated regional and national policies and action, as appropriate, on sand and dust storms can reduce the deterioration of health, well-being and livelihoods of people; desertification, land degradation and deforestation; and the loss of biodiversity and land productivity associated with sand and dust storms and their impacts on sustainable economic growth,

Further emphasizing that sustainable land management in the context of land degradation neutrality, including land management and sustainable water use, can contribute to effective responses to sand and dust storms,

Notes that sand and dust storms have natural and human causes, and can be exacerbated by desertification/land degradation and drought,

Recognizes the Convention as an appropriate platform to address sand and dust storms,

1. *Invites* Parties to:

(a) Use, as appropriate, the Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms, on a voluntary basis, in policy development and implementation for sand and dust storms at national and regional or international levels;

(b) Mainstream sand and dust storms issues in national disaster risk reduction policies;

(c) Explore anthropogenic source mitigation in national voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting and options to integrate source mitigation measures into national voluntary land degradation neutrality target-setting, as appropriate;

(d) Promote cooperation on sand and dust storms and facilitate information exchange and knowledge sharing and transfer, as appropriate, in the affected areas;

2. *Requests*, subject to the availability of resources, the secretariat and appropriate UNCCD institutions and bodies to collaborate with other relevant United Nations entities and specialized organizations in the process of assisting Parties in implementing the Policy Advocacy Framework to combat Sand and Dust Storms, in particular anthropogenic sand and dust storms source mitigation and strengthening of resilience;

3. *Invites* the Science-Policy Interface, subject to the availability of resources, to consider the issue of sand and dust storms as part of its work programme and contribute to the review and, as appropriate, the development of a UNCCD science-based communication on sand and dust storms;

4. *Invites* the relevant United Nations entities, as well as other concerned parties, to assist affected country Parties in developing and implementing national and regional policies on sand and dust storms,

5. *Invites* the secretariat to participate in United Nations system-wide coordination, where appropriate, to address sand and dust storms,

6. *Requests* the secretariat to include in the provisional agenda of its fourteenth session, under the item entitled "Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level", a subitem entitled "Sand and dust storms",

7. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a report for the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of this decision and follow up on sand and dust storms.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 32/COP.13

Declaration of civil society organizations attending the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Having heard the presentation of the Declaration made by the representative of the civil society organizations attending the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the discussions held during the Open Dialogue Session with the civil society organizations on "Land and Climate" and the Interactive Dialogue Session on "Gender and Land Rights",

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the Declaration;

2. *Decides* to include the Declaration as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 33/COP.13

Declaration from the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the Declaration from the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum with appreciation;

2. *Decides* to include the Declaration from the Sustainable Land Management Business Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 34/COP.13

Declaration of the Youth Forum

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Welcomes* the organization of the Youth Forum which took place from 8–10 September as a way to foster the involvement of future generations in the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Takes note* of the Declaration of the Youth Forum with appreciation;

3. *Decides* to include the Declaration of the Youth Forum as an annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 35/COP.13

Programme of work for the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

Also recalling decisions 9/COP.1, 2/COP.2, 4/COP.3, 5/COP.4, 5/COP.5, 29/COP.6, 30/COP.7, 27/COP.8, 35/COP.9, 38/COP.10, 39/COP.11 and 34/COP.12 on its programme of work, decision 7/COP.13 and decision 13/COP.13,

Taking into consideration the relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session,

1. *Decides* to include the following items on the agenda of its fourteenth session and, if necessary, its fifteenth session:

(a) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: implications for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification:

(i) Integration of the sustainable development goals and targets into the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Land Degradation Neutrality;

(ii) Implementation of the comprehensive communication strategy and the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020);

(b) Effective implementation of the Convention at national, subregional and regional level:

(i) Report of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

(ii) Promoting and strengthening relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies;

(iii) Follow up on policy frameworks and thematic issues;

(iv) Securing of additional investments and relations with financial mechanisms:

- Global Mechanism;

(c) Linking scientific knowledge with decision-making: review of the report of the Committee on Science and Technology and its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Programme and budget for the biennium 2020–2021;

(e) Procedural matters;

(i) Participation and involvement of civil society organizations in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification;

(ii) Participation and involvement of the private sector in meetings and processes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and business engagement strategy;

2. *Also decides* to include interactive dialogue sessions with relevant stakeholders, including ministers, civil society organizations, the business community, the scientific community and members of parliament, on agenda items of relevance to them;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare an annotated provisional agenda, in agreement with the President of the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session, taking into consideration provisions contained in the relevant decisions taken during that conference;

4. *Also requests* the secretariat to circulate in all official languages at least six weeks prior to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties appropriate documentation for that session, reflecting the decisions contained in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Decision 36/COP.13

Date and venue of the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 4, of the Convention,

Also recalling rule 3 of the rules of procedure,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985,

1. *Decides* that the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties shall be held in Bonn, Germany, the site of the Convention secretariat, in autumn 2019, or at another venue arranged by the secretariat in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties as soon as possible in the event that no Party makes an offer to host that session and meet the additional costs;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, to accommodate any offer from a Party to host the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take the necessary measures to prepare for the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, including the conclusion of a legally binding agreement at the international level with a host country/government.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017

Resolution 1/COP.13

Expression of gratitude to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China

The Conference of the Parties,

Having met in Ordos, from 6 to 16 September 2017 at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China,

1. *Expresses* its profound gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for having made it possible for the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to be held in the city of Ordos and for the excellent facilities placed at its disposal;

2. *Requests* the Government to convey to the people of the People's Republic of China the profound gratitude of the Parties to the Convention for the hospitality and warm welcome extended to the participants.

10th plenary meeting
15 September 2017